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Bomb Derails Express Train In East India

250 May Be Dead; Separatists Suspected

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW DELHI — Railroad officials said Monday that 250 people may have died when a bomb tore through an express train carrying at least 1,200 passengers in eastern India.

The blast ripped apart three cars of the New Delhi-bound Brahmaputra Express in Assam state and derailed many other carriages, news agencies and state officials reported. Some local officials put the death toll as low as "several dozen," but Reuters quoted others as saying that up to 300 had died.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack in Kokrajhar, but the area near the Bangladesh border is rife with insurgents seeking independence from India. Five of the seven northeastern states have separatist insurgencies and rebels often carry out attacks to dramatize their campaigns.

Tapan Das, a state official in Assam's capital, Gauhati, said rescue efforts were hampered because separatist rebels blew up a bridge Monday that links Gauhati with the area where the blast occurred. "We don't know if the incidents are related," he said.

In Assam state, two rebel groups are active. A separatist group known by its acronym, ULFA, has been fighting for independence since 1979, accusing New Delhi of economically exploiting the state. The Bodo tribe also has been struggling for a separate homeland for 20 years. *(AP, Reuters)*

Paul Barker/Reuters

Members of a United Nations honor guard at Panmunjom picking up the cremated remains of North Korean infiltrators killed after their submarine was grounded in the South.

Seoul Returns Remains Of Northern Infiltrators

Pyongyang Agrees to Join in Talks

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

SEOUL — In another sign of improving relations on the Korean Peninsula, the Seoul government on Monday handed over to North Korea the remains of 24 infiltrators who were killed after they slipped ashore from a North Korean submarine in September.

The return of the remains marked a quick reward to North Korea for its landmark statement of "deep regret" a day earlier for having sent the submarine into South Korean waters. The statement, by far the most contrite that North Korea has ever issued, is leading to a series of moves in the coming weeks to ease tensions.

Clinton administration officials said in Washington that the government in Pyongyang agreed for the first time to enter talks with South Korea and the United States, the details of which are expected to be announced within a few days.

The purpose of that briefing, as officials called it, would be to draw the North Koreans into broader talks with South Korea, as well as China and the United States, for a formal peace agreement to replace the armistice that ended the Korean War in 1953.

North Korea also agreed to resume storing spent nuclear fuel rods in keeping with an agree-

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Unrest in South Korea may be the growing pains of a democratic culture. Page 4.

At Home and Abroad, World Trade Benefits Asians

Nike's Story Shows Progress of Nations

By Anne Swardson
and Sandra Sugawara
Washington Post Service

Lounging in a Japanese-style conference room overlooking the leafy campus of Nike Inc.'s headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon, Philip Knight does not look old enough to be one of the first entrepreneurs to discover the profits to be made from manufacturing consumer goods for Americans in low-wage foreign countries. Clad in blue jeans, a T-shirt and Air Max running shoes — no socks — Nike's chairman finds it difficult to explain what led him to order the first 1,000 pairs of track shoes from a Japanese company after he first visited Japan in 1963.

As a graduate student at the Stanford school of business, Knight had written a paper about the potential for manufacturing low-cost running

Second of a series

shoes in a Japan that was then relatively poor. He sold the shoes he ordered out of the trunk of his car, and the rest of the story of this $6.5 billion company is legend.

But did Mr. Knight, 58, have any idea that he would help launch a wave of investment that would enrich not only his fledgling company, but the poor nations that produced its shoes?

"It was exactly unplanned," he says now.

No company symbolizes the mobilization of American companies overseas more than Nike. Its 30-year history in Asia is as close as any one company's story can be to the history of globalization, to the spread of dollars — and marks and yen — into the poor corners of the earth.

From Japan through South Korea and Taiwan and then into China, Indonesia and Vietnam, it is a story of restless and ruthless capital, continually moving from country to country in search of new markets and untapped low-wage labor. Almost everywhere they landed, the Nike investors have helped raise wages and living standards, even as they have prompted complaints about worker exploitation and environmental degradation.

In the last decade, as developing countries opened their economies to trade and investment, hundreds of companies have followed Nike's path, and foreign investment by private companies has become the most powerful, most sought after engine of growth in the world.

Once pariahs in much of the Third World,

See TRADE, Page 3

The New British Empire Is South Korea's

By Fred Barbash
Washington Post Service

SUNDERLAND, England — Ask a middle-aged working man in the north of England what he and his friends contemplated doing when they left school 20 years ago and you get only two answers: They would work in the shipyards or the coal pits, for companies with names like Swan Hunter, British Shipbuilders, Cammell Laird and British Coal.

Ask a secondary-school graduate now where he or she is likely to wind up working and you will hear very different-sounding names: companies called Samsung, Daewoo, LG Electronics, Chunghwa Picture Tubes, Woo One, Tatung or maybe Poong Jeon or Sung Kwang.

It is a sign of one of the most dramatic changes in modern industrial history: the growing dependence of Britain, a rich country that once ruled a great empire, on South Korea and Taiwan, once poor, developing countries, to solve the chronic problems of unemployment left behind when the coal mines and the shipyards closed.

Those British industries were vanquished by foreign competition beginning in the 1960s and their decline continued as Britain in the 1980s began deregulating and privatizing its economy and integrating with world markets.

The new jobs, in turn, were created by another phenomenon of globalization: the rapid growth of developing countries in Asia into industrial powers that not only can put factories in the developed world out of business, but also are rich enough to make their own foreign investments.

Since the late 1980s, South Korean and Taiwanese companies have sought depressed regions of Britain where they could do what multinational companies are doing in developing countries around the world. They built factories to assemble consumer products for the local market and for export, tapping an ample supply of educated, unemployed workers. Their multibillion-dollar investment now stretches west to Wales, north to Scotland and to the region around Newcastle in northeast England.

Encouraged by an assortment of quasi-governmental regional industrial development agencies, which compete with each other for foreign-owned factories, the trend is proving mutually rewarding — the Korean and Taiwanese businesses get lucrative incentives, low-cost labor and a European base for their expanding mar-

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Michael Williamson/The Washington Post

Workers leaving the export processing zone in Cavite, Philippines, at the end of their shift. New jobs at foreign-owned factories have lifted many Asians out of poverty.

Britons Bristle At Voting Tips From Kinkel

By Eric Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — In a rare show of unity, British politicians of all stripes reacted angrily Monday to a call from Klaus Kinkel for Britons to back closer ties to Europe.

The German foreign minister had urged Britons to seize the opportunity of the general election that must take place by May to vote for candidates favoring closer ties to Europe.

"The country must reach a clear decision on its European policy," said Mr. Kinkel in his New Year's message, made public Sunday night, in reference to a British election he termed one of "Europe's fateful decisions" for the coming year.

In Germany, observers noted that Mr. Kinkel's appeal to British voters contrasted starkly with signs that voters in his own country increasingly oppose some aspects of closer union. Polls for instance, show that the majority of German voters fear that the planned high-water mark of closer integration — Europe's single currency planned in two years' time — will only succeed in replacing a strong and stable Deutsche mark with a weak and untried euro.

In Britain, the unusually strong plea by a senior European official directly to the voters of another country was greeted with widespread condemnation.

The Liberal Democrats' leader, Paddy Ashdown, called it "unhelpful and almost certainly unwise."

He also insisted that "the British people are perfectly capable of making up their own minds."

Subsequent German attempts to cool the controversy may only have added to British fears of

See EUROPE, Page 5

Blunt Message Sets Scene for Singapore's Election

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Residents of the Bukit Gombak public housing estate in the central part of the main island of Singapore have a powerful inducement to cast their support for the opposition and vote for the candidate of the governing party in general elections Thursday.

They only have to look across at the nearby Bukit Batok estate, which has been in a ward controlled by the ruling People's Action Party since the last elections in 1991, to see the tangible benefits of going with the government.

The apartments in the high-rise blocks of Bukit Batok are being upgraded and enlarged. The building facades, landscaping, walkways and other amenities for residents are also being improved.

The program is being paid for by money from a huge budget surplus that the governing party has accumulated through prudent economic management since it came to power in 1959.

But there is a catch that concerns many of Singapore's 3 million people, 86 percent of whom live in high-rise estates built and sold at much less than free-market rates by the government's Housing and Development Board.

When the government announced four years ago that it would spend 20 billion Singapore dollars ($14.3 billion) over 20 years to upgrade public housing, it was assumed that the older estates would be chosen first.

But shortly before candidate nominations for this year's parliamentary elections closed on Dec. 23, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong delivered a blunt message to voters.

He told them that he would respect their choice if they elected someone from the opposition. But such a choice, he said, would have a result: "Your estate, through your own choice, will be left behind.

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Snows Keep 300 Trapped In Caucasus

Reuters

MOSCOW — Up to 300 people remained trapped by avalanches in a tunnel in the Caucasus Mountains on Monday and it will take at least two more days to rescue them, a spokesman for the Russian Emergencies Ministry said.

Several dozen people and their vehicles were freed Sunday after being trapped for days inside the four-kilometer (two-and-a-half-mile) Roksky tunnel linking Russia's North Ossetia region with the breakaway Georgian province of South Ossetia.

But after rescue workers had cleared away snow blocking some 19 kilometers of the highway, fresh snowfalls started avalanches Monday.

"Strong winds are hampering the evacuation," the ministry spokesman said. "Rescue teams will blow up the snow and it will take two more days to free the people."

The Itar-Tass news agency said that two women had given birth while trapped in the tunnel and that a newborn child had died of the cold. Two other people were reported to have died in the area during the weekend.

Rescue teams and doctors, entering the tunnel by foot, have managed to deliver food, medicine and warm clothing. Some of the trapped motorists have refused to leave in case their cars are stolen or looted, agencies said.

Overall in Russia, Tass reported that 10 people had died of cold in the last week and that 245 had been hospitalized with frostbite.

Europe's cold wave has killed more than 100 people. Page 2.

For Milosevic, an End That Is Not So Near?

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — Serbian opposition leaders may be right when they insist that their six-week-long protest movement against President Slobodan Milosevic marks the beginning of the end for the last Communist regime in Europe. The catch is that the final act in the drama may last a long time.

"I have no illusion that street demonstrations alone will be sufficient to get rid of Milosevic," said the Democratic Party leader, Zoran Djindjic, referring to the daily rallies he has organized to protest the regime's "stealing" of local elections on Nov. 17. "This is all part of a much longer historical process. We cannot think that the government will fall within a month, or even two or three months."

A political counteroffensive by the Milosevic government in the last few

NEWS ANALYSIS

days, including the mobilization of tens of thousands of riot police on the streets of Belgrade, has served as a reminder that the Serbian strongman still has considerable resources at his disposal.

Many observers say they suspect that, in the long run, his fate is more likely to be determined by struggles within his own government and a bleak economic outlook than by the street protests that have captured the attention of the world.

While some commentators have drawn parallels between Mr. Milosevic and East European Communist leaders like Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania and Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia, who were overthrown by popular upheavals in 1989, the contrasts are even more

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Newsstand Prices			
Bahrain	1.000 Din	Malta	55 c.
Cyprus	C. £ 1.00	Nigeria	125,00 Naira
Denmark	14.00 D.Kr.	Oman	1.250 Rials
Finland	12.00 F.M.	Qatar	10.00 Rials
Gibraltar	£ 0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £ 1.00
Great Britain	£ 0.90	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Egypt	£E 5	S. Africa	R12 + VAT
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Kenya	K. SH. 150	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$ 1.20
Kuwait	600 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zim.$30.00

Reuters

SIR PAUL — Queen Elizabeth II earlier in 1996 with Paul McCartney, who is awarded a knighthood in the New Year's honors list. Mr. McCarey dedicated it to his fellow former Beatles. Page 18.

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AGENDA

UN Accuses Iraq On Missile Parts

UNITED NATIONS, New York (AP) — Fearing Iraq may have hidden missile engines and parts that could be used to build prohibited weapons, the Security Council condemned Iraq on Monday for not cooperating with UN inspectors. Iraq refused to take about 130 Russian-made missiles to a U.S. lab to see if it had substituted lower-grade Iraqi engines and key parts.

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Down 11.54	Up 0.15%
8549.37	149.25

The Dollar

New York.	Mon. close	previous close
DM	1.555	1.5545
Pound	1.6905	1.692
Yen	116.145	115.30
FF	5.2415	5.2435

Happy New Year

Because of the New Year's holiday, this is a combined issue of the IHT. Regular publication resumes with Thursday's paper.

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Opposition Leader/ **A Political Chameleon**

Serbia's Elastic Intellectual

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — Zoran Djindjic spent the night of Feb. 21, 1994, in the mountain stronghold of the Bosnian Serbs. He skied the lily-white slopes of Mount Jahorina, illuminated by floodlights. Later he feasted on oxen, roasted on a spit under the open sky.

It was the last day of the first NATO ultimatum. After a Serbian shell killed 68 people in downtown Sarajevo early that month, NATO ordered the Bosnian Serbs to remove the heavy weapons encircling the city or face air strikes.

Mr. Djindjic said he had gone to Pale, Bosnia-Herzegovina, to "express solidarity with the people of the Bosnian Serb republic." He spent eight hours huddling with the ultranationalist Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic.

Nearly three years later, Mr. Djindjic has emerged somewhat incongruously as the next great hope for democracy in Serbia, the mastermind of the most significant challenge to the nine-year rule of President Slobodan Milosevic.

With his good looks, his smooth patois, his signature black turtleneck and gray Hugo Boss jackets, Mr. Djindjic has cajoled his way to the top of the fractious pile of dissidents. He may be just the man to yank Yugoslavia into modern times and rouse it from its hangover of too much nationalism and too much communism. Then again, he may not.

For the past month, the 44-year-old philosophy professor turned businessman turned politician has been at the forefront of an unprecedented string of demonstrations — the biggest and longest in Belgrade since the Communist takeover in 1945. The supporters of Zajedno, a coalition of five opposition parties, are protesting Mr. Milosevic's Socialist Party, which they charge rigged elections in 14 Serbian cities. Mr. Djindjic, the main strategist of the movement, would have become the first non-socialist mayor of Belgrade since 1945.

With his polished statements on democracy, human rights and economic reform, Mr. Djindjic could be a politician from any other European country. But friends and foes say he is a riddle, and a stone-cold pragmatist. Once he was a ponytailed anarchist; as recently as September he was stumping for Mr. Karadzic's party as a calculating nationalist. On the political map, he's everywhere, he's nowhere.

Desimir Tosic, a co-founder of the Democratic Party with Mr. Djindjic, who quit when the party veered to the right, called him "a demagogue without scruples," but quickly added, "that is not a bad thing necessarily. He is a completely pragmatic man. Maybe that's what we need."

Mr. Djindjic acknowledges his dizzying shifts. His remarkable string of transformations from student anarchist in the 1970s to liberal in the 1980s to nationalist in the early 1990s to democrat today puts him in line to become the first of the Teflon Serbs. "If you want honesty," he said, repeating one of his favorite quips, "go to church."

Given these changes, it should be easy to find people who hate the man. But another remarkable thing about Mr. Djindjic is that even his political opponents like him.

"Do I like him? Absolutely," said Ljubisa Ristic, president of the Yugoslav United Left, a party closely allied with Mr. Milosevic and a target of opposition abuse. "He is so charming."

Mr. Djindjic excelled as a student at Belgrade University. Like the student demonstrators who fill the streets every day, he also protested. In 1974 his aim, like theirs today, was to establish a student union outside the control of the Communist Party. He was arrested and sentenced to several months in jail.

Out of prison, Mr. Djindjic won a scholarship to study in Germany. He attached himself to the famed left-wing philosopher Juergen Habermas, who urged his students not simply to contemplate but also to act.

Mr. Djindjic returned to Yugoslavia in 1979, a year before the death of Tito, to teach at the University of Novi Sad. In the 1980s he wrote often for the Literary Review, an influential Yugoslav periodical. Almost alone among the passionate scribblers, Mr. Djindjic argued calmly against the nationalist machine. When the writer Dobrica Cosic, who later became president of Yugoslavia, called for Serbia's region of Kosovo — and its majority Albanian population — to lose its autonomous status, Mr. Djindjic reasoned against the plan.

IF KOSOVO is annexed by Serbia, he wrote in June 1988, "we will be able to declare with considerable certainty that in every future Serbian state Kosovo will be a permanent source of repression." Today Kosovo's 1.2 million Albanians live under what effectively is a Serbian police state, and it remains one of Yugoslavia's great unsolved problems.

Drinka Gojkovic, a scholar who has charted the growth of Serbian ultranationalism, said she remembered the respect she had for Mr. Djindjic's views and for his courage to speak out against the insanity then entangling Serbian society.

"While everyone was screaming, using shocking language to fan hatred, Zoran was writing these beautiful essays, arguing that nationalism was not the way," she said.

In 1990, Mr. Djindjic and 11 other men founded the Democratic Party. A year later Mr. Milosevic and his foe, Franjo Tudjman, the ultranationalist Croatian president, started war in Croatia. By mid-1992, the Serbian president had spread the conflict to Bosnia.

As nationalism's grip tightened on Yugoslavia, Mr. Djindjic began to change, moving with stunning speed to ride the right-wing wave.

Miss Gojkovic remembers the feeling she had when Mr. Djindjic began to back nationalist aims: "It was very, very astonishing when he shifted. It was like something moved underneath all of us. It was a sign that our society was going mad."

In 1993, Mr. Djindjic rewrote the platform of the Democratic Party to reflect his new views. He no longer backed autonomy for Kosovo. The party even called for measures to limit the birth rate of the Albanian majority. It demanded a referendum on the restoration of Yugoslavia's monarchy — a view favored by Mr. Karadzic and other ultranationalists. It called for the unity of all Serbs in one state. These positions remain on the party platform today.

Mr. Djindjic's friends and even his opponents say they believe the shifts have more to do with Mr. Milosevic than with Mr. Djindjic's beliefs.

Some explain it as a psychological problem typical of Serbian opposition figures. For the past six years, since a semblance of multiparty democracy has come to Yugoslavia, the opposition has defined itself almost solely in terms of its relationship to Mr. Milosevic — a political puppet master, the arch dissembler of Yugoslavia's collapse. Opposition leaders like Mr. Djindjic are still too politically immature to set the terms for political debate. So they follow Mr. Milosevic's twists and turns. That has made it almost impossible for them to be for anything; they are simply against him.

So when Mr. Milosevic switched his policy to embrace peace, Mr. Djindjic coddled the Bosnian Serb warriors. When Mr. Milosevic signed the treaty ending the conflict in Bosnia, Mr. Djindjic gave it only half-hearted support.

Recently, as the protests mounted, Miss Gojkovic met Mr. Djindjic. "I said, 'Zoran, you are my open wound, why did you do the things you did?'" she recalled. "He replied, 'I still think the same as I always did.'"

"But what is that?" she asked.

Lenel Yan/Reuters

Zoran Djindjic, a leader of the Belgrade demonstrations, was a student anarchist in the 1970s, a liberal in the 80s and a calculating nationalist as recently as September.

An Iranian Exile Chief Adored by Her Troops

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

CAMP ASHRAF, Iraq — In this enclave of Iraq, the road signs are in Persian and the soldiers pay tribute not to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq but to an Iranian woman they call Maryam.

"She is the symbol of our struggle," veiled young women chanted after storming into a fortified bunker in a military training exercise.

"She is the tip of the arrow," proclaimed another, a gunner in a Soviet-made tank.

By the map, Camp Ashraf lies in Iraq, 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad. But a more accurate description would be the military headquarters of Iran-in-exile, and a place unto itself. The sprawling camp is home to the leadership of the National Liberation Army, a formidable Iranian opposition force.

It is also home to unfathomable devotion toward the 43-year-old woman her followers say should be Iran's next leader.

"We love Maryam Rajavi," men in camouflage dress chanted after braving a pool of fire in an exercise. "And we promise to take her to Tehran."

Built up on a barren salt plain beginning about a decade ago, the army, now about 30,000 strong, is by any measure the best-armed opposition force poised outside any country's borders.

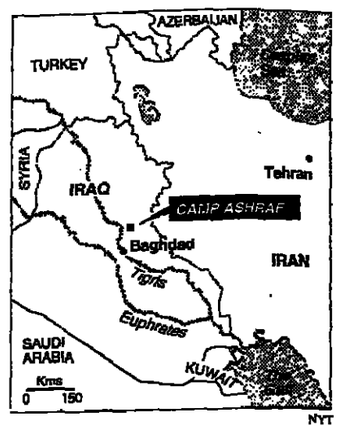
With raids deep into Iran in 1988, in the closing months of the eight-year Iran-Iraq War, it equipped itself with about $2 billion worth of weapons, including American-made armored personnel carriers and British-made Chieftain tanks.

And while Iran and Iraq have meticulously observed a cease-fire since then, the presence of the opposition force reflects the enmity that the secular government in Baghdad still feels toward Tehran and its mullahs' power.

Twice a day, at noon and midnight, Iraqi television broadcasts a one-hour program prepared by the Iranian opposition group, which pays neither for that service nor for its land at Camp Ashraf and four other camps within 90 kilometers of the Iranian border.

But to hear its members tell it, the real strength of the National Liberation Army derives from faith in Mrs. Rajavi and her husband, Massoud, architects of a force so highly motivated and disciplined that it borders on the bizarre.

Uniforms display neither rank nor insignia, in an effort to promote "camaraderie and fraternity in our struggle," said Kobra Tahmasbi, 39, a division commander. Mrs. Tahmasbi and most other top officers are women, who exercise an authority unimaginable at home.



NYT

Soldiers live communally, bunking as many as 20 to a sex-segregated room. Since 1991, even the married couples among them have lived apart. Their children have been sent abroad.

All rise promptly at 7 A.M. to begin their day with outdoor ceremonies that feature revolutionary hymns, oaths "in the name of God and in the name of the people of Tehran" and honor guards who stiffly bear the red, white and green Iranian colors. And there, as in most public rooms, they operate under the eyes of the Rajavis, whose photographs are displayed front and center. The leaders' images have even been affixed to some tank turrets, and crew members like Azadeh Salamet, 32, describe their leaders as a source of inspiration.

"As the years go on," said Ms. Salamet, who abandoned her marriage and studies at the University of Washington to take up arms in Iraq in 1988, "my faith in both of them grows more and more."

Massoud Rajavi, a former student of political science at the University of Tehran, was long a prominent figure in the People's Mujahidin of Iran, formed in the early 1960s in opposition to Shah Riza Pahlevi. After the 1979 Islamic revolution, it broke with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini over his ouster of President Abol-Hassan Banisadr, endorsed armed struggle and became a powerful voice of anti-theocratic dissent.

After fleeing to Paris in 1982, Mr. Rajavi married Maryam, a metallurgical engineer who had been a student leader in Tehran, and together they established the National Liberation Army, the military wing of the National Council of Resistance, a coalition of Iranian opposition groups abroad.

Only twice since its formation has the opposition army fought head-to-head against Iran, in the operations of 1988, when it once pushed more than 160 kilometers miles into Iran, and in 1991, when Iran's Revolutionary Guards invaded Iraq in an attempt to crush the resistance at the end of the Gulf War. By most accounts, the force has acquitted itself well, demonstrating an ability to confront and defeat some of Iran's best armored units. It has been well-financed, mostly by contributions from inside Iran, its top officials say.

In a report two years ago, the U.S. State Department cited the organization's past Marxist leanings and allegations that elements of the council took part in violent attacks against Americans in the early 1970s, and concluded that it did not represent an acceptable alternative to the current government of Iran.

But such criticism appears to have done nothing to diminish the adulation shown in Camp Ashraf, where followers say they dream of the day that Mrs. Rajavi assumes a role the organization voted her in 1993: transitional president who would wield power after the fall of the Iranian government. As soldiers and officers filed into a dining hall for lunch recently, a huge photograph of her, smiling beatifically, stood on an easel at the head of the room. Around the room, television sets were showing videotapes of Mrs. Rajavi's triumphal return this month to Iraq after three years in Paris, the organization's political headquarters, and there were throaty cheers.

"I have found my final answer in Maryam Rajavi," said Mohammed Taslimi, 46, a political prisoner under the Shah who is the camp's chief of logistics. "Maryam Rajavi is anathema to the Khomeini ideology, and that's why she is the cure."

Europe's Cold Kills 100 And Causes Travel Chaos

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Europe headed into the New Year on Monday huddled against a Continent-wide cold snap that has killed more than 100 people in the last week and brought chaos to highways and airports.

Deaths have been reported in nearly every country in Europe, from Russia to Spain, with the homeless and elderly the hardest hit.

In Romania alone, 43 people have died, many of them homeless or elderly living in insufficiently heated homes. Vladimr Belis, the director of Bucharest's morgue, said Monday. Temperatures there have hovered around minus-20 degrees centigrade (minus-4 Fahrenheit).

While some countries enjoyed slightly milder temperatures on Monday, forecasters predicted the relief would be short-lived, with heavy snowfall and more freezing weather expected through the week.

In Western Europe, snow has fallen from Britain to the Mediterranean.

British newspapers reported that a married couple died after falling through the ice on a frozen lake in the county of Essex in an effort to rescue their dog.

At least nine people have died of exposure in France and four in Austria.

Six people were killed by an avalanche at a ski resort in Turkey over the weekend.

In Germany, six cold-related deaths have been reported since Christmas Eve.

Scandinavia and Russia have seen colder weather and heavier snow than in recent years. Tass news agency reported a total of 10 deaths in Russia and 245 hospitalized with frostbite.

The harsh conditions extended as far south as the Valencia region, near Spain's Mediterranean coast, where a 54-year-old man was found dead from the cold in a makeshift shack over the weekend.

Heavy snows across the region have stranded motorists, closed air and sea ports, delayed bus and rail traffic and led to many weather-related accidents.

In Italy's Alpine north, temperatures were down to minus-30 degrees centigrade although tempered by bright sunshine. The Adriatic resorts of Rimini and Ancona saw snow for the first time in years. Snow and ice also paralyzed much of central and southern Italy.

Roads, including the main highway north from Rome, were blocked by snow and flights from the capital's Fiumicino Airport were delayed by freezing rain and snow.

Some 40 flights had to be canceled Monday morning from Frankfurt's airport, one of Europe's busiest, because of snow on the runways.

In Bulgaria, the death toll rose to 19, including a father, mother and child who froze to death in their car after it got stuck in snow near Varna, where snow has drifted up to two meters (6.6 feet) high.

Weather-related power outages were reported in Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, northeastern Bulgaria and southeastern Romania. *(Reuters, AFP, AP)*

Hong Kong Pilots Buzzed by Phones

Reuters

HONG KONG — Pilots flying to and from Hong Kong's airport have been bothered by interference coming from mobile phones in China's Guangdong province, but sources said Monday that efforts to solve the problem appeared to be working.

The Hong Kong Aircrew Officers' Association said pilots had been complaining of a loud buzzing in their ears that forced them to quickly change to another frequency to maintain contact with air-traffic control.

Mobile phones and pagers being used on illegal frequencies in Guangdong province are blamed for the problem, which pilots say is a safety concern.

Massive Walkouts in Israel Place Economy in Turmoil

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JERUSALEM — In the largest popular protest against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, hundreds of thousands of workers walked off their jobs Monday, crippling large sectors of the economy.

The strike was called by the Histadrut Trade Union Federation to protest tax increases, budget cuts and privatization plans that the organizers fear will lead to large-scale layoffs. The Histadrut federation said 283,000 public-sector employees went on strike Monday, in the largest of four days of strikes.

The strike shut the stock market, utility companies, day care, postal services, banks and seaports. The job action also hampered public transportation and health care, with hospitals operating on a Sabbath schedule. Broadcasts on state-owned radio and television were scaled back.

Ben Gurion Airport, paralyzed by a wildcat strike Sunday, was not affected by the action Monday.

On Thursday, the Histadrut launched a series of gradually widening walkouts planned to culminate in a general strike on Tuesday, when Parliament is set to vote the 1997 budget.

Mr. Netanyahu, a proponent of deregulation and a free-market economy, complained that the strike was politically motivated — a reference to the strong ties between the Histadrut and the opposition Labor Party. He has called the strikes "irresponsible" and "baseless."

"The country isn't yours, and you cannot do with it as you please," Mr. Netanyahu said. "The workers themselves have no idea what the strike is all about."

The strike Monday ostensibly was sparked by the government's decision to try to sell off dozens of state-owned companies, to reduce spending on social services, to impose new taxes on gas and cigarettes and to reduce tax deductions for married working women.

Amir Peretz, the Histadrut chief, said every worker would lose 2,500 to 3,000 shekels ($765 to $918) a year because of the tax increases and budget cuts.

But there also appeared to be a growing anger among lower-income Israelis against Mr. Netanyahu's policy of restoring subsidies for Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — a move that would cost hundreds of millions of shekels a year.

The opposition Labor Party has estimated that government subsidies to the Jewish settlements would cost the taxpayers the equivalent of $300 million a year. *(AP, Reuters)*

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TRAVEL UPDATE

Blizzard Surprises Vancouver

VANCOUVER (Reuters) — British Columbia, which is known for its temperate winters, was shoveling itself out Monday from under its worst blizzard in decades.

The snowstorm dumped 27 inches (70 centimeters) on the province's capital, Victoria, and 18 inches on Vancouver over the weekend, paralyzing public transportation and stretching the capacity of the few snowplows to the limit.

Vancouver International Airport operated at only 10 percent capacity Sunday and was struggling to get planes moving Monday. National Railway trains were at a standstill, according to the Canadian Wheat Board, which sends most of its grain by train to the port of Vancouver.

Tricky Search for the Best Airfare

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some air travelers in the United States may pay $1,000 more than other passengers, even though they asked for the "lowest" fare, a consumer group says.

Much depends on how hard a travel agent searches for the best fare, and that can depend on how hard the customer pushes them, said Janice Shields of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Chris Privett of the American Society of Travel Agents, blamed airline pricing policies for the wide range of prices, saying "there may be up to 100,000 fare changes a day. So, from moment to moment, depending on how quickly seats are filling, there will be fare changes and they can be substantial."

Airlines try to limit the number of seats sold at low prices, Mr. Privett explained. "They have a certain inventory of cheaper seats. As the last seat at that price gets filled, the fare will jump. So prices can change substantially over the course of a day."

WEATHER

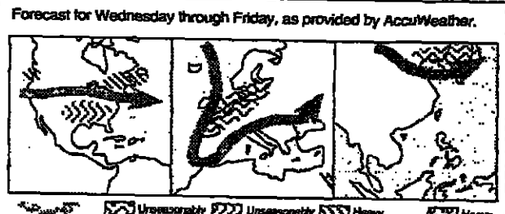
Europe

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Algarve	16/61	9/48 sh	15/59	4/39 pc
Amsterdam	5/41	1/33 c	5/41	0/32 pc
Ankara	4/39	1/34 r	6/43	0/32 sn
Athens	17/62	12/53 pc	18/64	10/50 s
Barcelona	8/46	5/41 r	6/43	2/41 r
Belgrade	0/32	-3/27 sn	5/41	-4/39 sh
Berlin	-1/30	-1/30 sn	2/35	-6/21 c
Brussels	6/43	-1/30 c	7/44	-3/26 c
Budapest	-4/25	-6/21 pc	1/34	-7/19 r
Copenhagen	-5/23	-7/20 sn	-4/25	-9/22 pc
Costa Del Sol	15/59	13/55 r	17/62	7/44 r
Dublin	2/35	-3/27 c	3/37	-2/29 c
Edinburgh	0/32	-4/25 c	1/34	-3/27 c
Florence	5/41	5/41 sn	11/52	7/44 sh
Frankfurt	-6/21	-13/9 sn	-5/23	-9/16 c
Geneva	-4/25	-6/21 sn	-1/30	-8/24 c
Helsinki	-7/20	-9/16 c	-6/21	-10/14 sn
Istanbul	12/53	9/48 sh	13/55	8/46 c
Las Palmas	20/68	16/61 r	21/70	14/57 c
Lisbon	11/52	6/43 c	13/55	2/35 sn
London	3/37	-2/28 c	4/39	-1/30 sn
Madrid	7/44	1/34 r	8/46	-3/27 sn
Majorca	7/44	0/32 r	8/46	4/39 r
Milan	0/32	-2/28 sn	4/39	-2/28 c
Moscow	-11/12	-14/7 sn	-10/14	-14/7 sf
Munich	-5/23	-7/20 sn	-3/26	-5/23 sn
Nice	9/48	7/44 r	9/48	7/44 pc
Oslo	-7/20	-9/16 c	-3/26	-9/16 c
Paris	-1/30	-14/7 sf	-1/30	-13/9 pc
Prague	-3/26	-11/12 c	-4/25	-7/20 sn
Reykjavik	2/35	1/34 sn	2/35	2/35 c
Rome	11/52	9/48 r	16/61	3/48 sh
St. Petersburg	-7/20	-10/14 c	-6/21	-8/18 sn
Stockholm	-5/23	-8/18 c	-3/27	-8/18 sn
Strasbourg	-6/22	-9/16 c	-4/25	-8/18 c
Tallinn	-9/16	-12/10 c	-4/25	-10/15 sn
Venice	1/34	0/32 r	6/43	1/34 r
Vienna	-6/21	-8/18 c	-1/30	-7/20 sn
Warsaw	-11/12	-14/7 sn	-8/18	-9/16 c
Zurich	-1/30	-5/23 c	2/35	-4/25 sn

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	34/93	23/73	34/93	24/75 s
Beirut	19/66	11/52	20/68	12/53 s
Cairo	23/73	12/53	23/73	12/53 s
Damascus	16/61	4/39	17/62	4/39 s
Jerusalem	16/61	6/43	16/61	6/43 s
Luxor	27/80	13/55	28/82	14/57 pc
Riyadh	23/73	11/52	23/73	9/48 s

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.



North America
A passing shot of arctic air will move across New England to start the New Year, while the southern two-thirds of the nation from the Plains eastward stays unseasonably mild. A series of storms will soak the Northwest into California with heavy rain and gusty winds.

Europe
The recent cold wave will continue across a large part of Europe into the new year. Many cities from Warsaw to Berlin to Amsterdam, Paris and London will be in the deep freeze. Western Russia, including Moscow... will also be affected by this cold wave. Unsettled but mild in Rome and Athens.

Asia
Unseasonably cold into Beijing through Friday, while Seoul turns noticeably colder Wednesday and Thursday; rain and/or snow is possible Wednesday in Seoul. Rather mild in Tokyo Wednesday, then colder with rain possible Thursday. Hong Kong and Singapore will be seasonably warm.

North America

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Anchorage	-1/54	-24/-11 s	-1/54	-19/-2 sf
Atlanta	13/66	11/52 t	21/70	8/46 pc
Boston	-1/31	-7/20 pc	0/32	-3/27 sf
Chicago	6/43	3/34 pc	8/46	6/43 pc
Dallas	20/68	11/52 pc	20/70	10/50 pc
Denver	16/64	0/32 pc	18/64	4/39 s
Detroit	4/39	0/32 c	9/48	3/37 pc
Honolulu	28/82	19/66 pc	27/80	19/66 pc
Houston	23/73	11/52 pc	27/80	13/55 pc
Los Angeles	20/68	11/52 sh	22/71	12/53 pc
Miami	27/80	19/66 pc	27/80	19/64 pc
Minneapolis	-7/20	-11/13 c	7/44	2/35 pc
Montreal	-12/11	-13/9 c	-2/29	-7/20 s
Nassau	28/79	18/64 pc	28/79	18/64 pc
New York	2/35	-2/29 pc	3/37	-1/31 pc
Orlando	26/79	18/61 pc	26/79	14/57 pc
Phoenix	24/75	12/53 pc	25/77	14/57 s
San Fran.	16/61	12/53 r	16/61	12/53 r
Seattle	9/48	6/46 sh	10/50	4/39 r
Toronto	1/34	-3/27 sf	6/43	2/35 pc
Vancouver	8/48	6/48 sh	10/50	1/34 r
Washington	8/46	0/32 r	9/48	2/35 pc

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hce, W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1996

Asia

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Bali	33/91	23/73 pc	33/91	23/73 sh
Bangkok	31/88	19/66 pc	31/88	19/66 s
Beijing	6/43	-3/27 sn	0/32	-11/13 pc
Bombay	29/84	14/57 s	29/84	16/61 s
Calcutta	25/77	13/55 s	25/77	12/53 s
Chiang Mai	32/89	17/62 pc	31/88	17/62 s
Colombo	29/84	21/70 pc	29/84	21/70 sh
Hanoi	24/75	19/64 s	23/73	17/62 pc
Ho Chi Minh	32/89	19/66 s	30/86	19/66 s
Hong Kong	22/71	17/62 s	21/70	16/61 pc
Islamabad	23/73	7/44 s	24/75	7/44 pc
Jakarta	29/84	24/75 t	29/84	23/73 t
Karachi	29/84	12/53 s	29/84	11/52 s
K. Lumpur	31/88	21/70 pc	31/88	21/70 pc
K. Kinabalu	27/80	22/71 pc	27/80	21/70 pc
Manila	28/82	19/66 s	28/82	19/66 pc
New Delhi	27/80	7/44 s	27/80	8/46 s
Phnom Penh	29/82	19/66 pc	29/84	22/71 pc
Phuket	31/88	19/66 pc	31/88	19/66 s
Rangoon	31/88	19/66 pc	31/88	19/66 s
Seoul	8/46	2/35 pc	8/46	-4/25 c
Shanghai	17/62	8/46 pc	9/48	-6/22 s
Singapore	29/82	23/73 pc	28/82	22/71 pc
Taipei	23/73	18/61 sh	23/73	14/57 pc
Tokyo	14/57	4/39 pc	14/57	6/43 pc
Vientiane	23/73	18/64 s	22/71	17/62 pc

Africa

Algiers	19/66	9/48 pc	22/71	9/48 pc
Cape Town	21/70	13/55 pc	20/68	12/53 pc
Casablanca	15/61	12/53 sh	16/61	6/43 t
Harare	25/82	8/46 s	25/84	8/46 s
Lagos	31/88	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
Nairobi	29/84	12/53 s	29/84	12/53 s
Tunis	18/64	10/50 pc	22/71	12/53 s

Latin America

Buenos Aires	30/86	18/61 t	24/75	14/57 pc
Caracas	29/84	22/71 pc	29/84	22/73 pc
Lima	26/79	20/68 c	26/79	19/66 c
Mexico City	22/71	5/41 pc	23/73	5/41 pc
Rio de Janeiro	27/80	23/68 c	28/79	21/70 pc
Santiago	27/80	11/52 pc	30/86	13/55 s

Oceania

Auckland	24/75	16/61 c	24/75	16/61 s
Sydney	22/71	13/55 sh	19/66	13/55 pc

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THE AMERICAS

A Republican Defects on Gingrich

Former Supporter Says Speaker Should Step Aside

By Melinda Henneberger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — One of Newt Gingrich's most enthusiastic supporters has become the first Republican to announce that he would not vote for Mr. Gingrich for a second term as speaker of the House, saying that his explanations for admitted ethical lapses simply did not ring true.

The announcement came Sunday from Representative Michael Forbes of New York, who said he had pored over the ethics committee documents released on Dec. 21, and decided that Mr. Gingrich should step aside, both as a matter of conscience and for the good of the party.

The Republican leadership minimized the importance of a single defection, but Democrats said it could signal serious trouble for Mr. Gingrich because at least a half-dozen other Republicans had said they were still undecided. Mr. Forbes said that "as many as 20 or 30" Republican colleagues might well follow suit. If 20 Republicans vote "present," as Mr. Forbes plans to do, Mr. Gingrich would not be re-elected.

"I'm physically sick over it, and I'm sick he's making us do this, but he'll be a speaker who's weighed down," said Mr. Forbes, who represents the eastern part of Suffolk County on Long Island. He also said Mr. Gingrich had gone "underground" in the last year as a result of ethics charges against him and was no longer in a position to lead Congress.

"We need leadership that will not be cowering, contrite or hiding from the media so we can aggressively pursue a balanced budget and tax reform," he said, adding that Mr. Gingrich "let us down" and "took his eye off the ball."

But Tony Blankley, Mr. Gingrich's press secretary, said Sunday evening that Mr. Forbes did not understand the charges and that his defection was no cause for concern. "When he has a chance to fully review the facts, he'll reach the conclusion that if you're a Republican you should support Newt for speaker."

Mr. Gingrich acknowledged Dec. 21 that he had provided the committee with "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable statements" about a course that he had taught at two small colleges in Georgia. At issue is whether he improperly used tax-exempt programs for partisan purposes — a charge he had denied until a week ago. He has said the bad information passed on to the committee was the fault of his former lawyer.

Referring to a section of the law dealing with tax-exempt organizations, Mr. Forbes said: "Anybody who has even passing understanding of 501(c)(3) knows you are not to mix political advocacy with tax-exempt foundation activities. He's created tax-exempt foundations! Then he hires an attorney and for two years they go on the offensive and say there was no co-mingling, and now he says he didn't know the attorney had said that?"

POLITICAL NOTES

Social Security Battle Gears Up

NEW YORK — With Congress and the nation gearing up for a huge debate on the future of Social Security, labor, Wall Street, corporate America and organizations of the old and the young are quietly marshaling their forces for one of the biggest lobbying battles in decades.

There is a broad consensus that the Social Security system needs reform, but little agreement on what should be done, and many of the important organizations in the debate are formulating their strategies.

Wall Street's big brokerage firms are, inescapably, at the center of the debate. They view changes in Social Security as an opportunity to sell billions of dollars in financial products directly to the government or to individuals.

The AFL-CIO, which has focused on Wall Street as an adversary in the campaign ahead, is seeking to protect a financial safety net for low-income workers, as well as to maintain a central role for government in public benefit programs. Even the AFL-CIO, however, favors investing Social Security money in the stock and bond markets, although it wants the money controlled by the government, and not put in the hands of private investors. *(NYT)*

Lipstick Color? A Political Ruse

WASHINGTON — The bulging files of John Huang, the former Democratic fund-raiser, contain a raft of crystalline answers to political puzzlers, like what color lipstick a candidate should wear on television; how to root out embarrassing personal details about an opponent, and, more poignantly, how to abide by the fund-raising rules of the Federal Election Commission.

Mr. Huang filed away political primers that the Democratic Party distributes to its operatives, guides on everything from scheduling candidates' time to stuffing their war chests to placating their meddlesome friends.

When the Democratic National Committee released 3,000 pages of records last week, the guides were there, among the business cards and canceled checks.

The primers combine the attention to niceties of Emily Post — "Lipstick should match the color of the inside of your mouth" — with a Machiavellian focus on opponents' soft spots.

"To find out about your opponent's selective service status during the Vietnam War," reads one, reflecting painful lessons recently drilled into the Democrats, "call the Selective Service System at 703-235-2272." *(NYT)*

Quote/Unquote

General Barry McCaffrey, President Bill Clinton's drug policy chief, on plans to undercut resolutions adopted by California and Arizona voters that amount to quasi-legalization of drugs: "In essence we see them as a violation of the scientific process that has brought America the safest and most effective medicines in the world. And we're enormously concerned because of the potential for increased drug abuse in these two states." *(AP)*

Dan Ryan/The Associated Press

A driver scraping his ice-encrusted automobile in Portland, Oregon.

Away From Politics

A powerful snowstorm followed by rain paralyzed Seattle with slush, blocked major Northwest highways with avalanches and brought mudslides and the threat of flooding to western Washington and Oregon. The second major storm to churn through the region in four days brought up to 14 inches (35 centimeters) of snow, heavy rain and high winds. *(AP)*

Americans are less alienated than a year ago, according to an annual poll published Sunday. The Harris Alienation Index, which has tracked a remorseless rise in public alienation since 1966, fell to 62 percent in 1996 from a record high 67 percent last year. *(Reuters)*

Jordan Reardon, a 10-year-old girl who was injured when a package bomb exploded in her face on Christmas Eve, returned home in Clifton Park, New York. She sustained burns over 27 percent of her body. *(AP)*

A rental car carrying three Korean tourists plunged into the Merced River near Yosemite National Park on Sunday, killing the driver. *(AP)*

Earl Pitts, an FBI agent, pleaded not guilty on Monday to charges of spying for Moscow. A federal judge set April 21 for trial after Mr. Pitts waived his right to a speedy trial. *(Reuters)*

Pressure Mounts on U.S. to Pay Dues to the UN

By Steven Lee Myers
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Having orchestrated the ouster of Boutros Boutros Ghali as secretary-general of the United Nations, the Clinton administration is facing increased diplomatic pressure to pay America's outstanding UN dues. But the Republicans who control Congress are resisting.

As the administration worked to block Mr. Boutros Ghali's re-election this month, it argued that only the presence of a new secretary-general could persuade Congress to pay the hundreds of millions of dollars that the United States has owed for three years.

But some Republicans say they have no intention of repaying the debt until they are convinced that the newly elected secretary-general, Kofi Annan, will make a difference. Mr. Annan, they say, must persuade them in a way his predecessor never did that he is determined to streamline the organization's budget and bureaucracy.

As Marc Thiessen, the spokesman for Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, put it: "They thought if they just brought us Boutros Ghali's head on a platter, that it would satiate us and we'd pay up. Our concern is not Boutros Ghali, but whether the United Nations reforms itself."

For the United States, the back dues have become a nagging diplomatic embarrassment. Even administration officials acknowledge that the issue has undercut American credibility at the United Nations, while pushing the organization to the brink of fiscal disarray.

As President Bill Clinton prepared to submit his budget recommendations to Congress next month, officials said the administration would propose paying the debt in installments. But the proposal is similar to one that Congress rejected last year, to pay over five years.

Difficult negotiations remain, not only with Congress but also with the United Nations. Even the extent of the debt remains in dispute, with the United Nations insisting that the United States owes $1.3 billion, while the administration argues that the amount is less than $1 billion.

The administration's handling of the search for a secretary-general, which many diplomats considered unabashed bullying, stoked a bitterness that has been simmering at the United Nations for years. It has also created a feeling that now more than ever, the United States is obliged to pay its full dues.

UN budget officials say the U.S. debt constitutes more than half of its $2.3 billion in outstanding dues.

Joseph Connor, an American who is the UN under secretary-general for administration and management, said Washington's failure to pay its dues had strained the organization to the brink, forcing it to borrow from the peacekeeping funds for operating expenses.

Each year the United States is required to pay an assessment that totals 25 percent of the organization's operating budget. In the current fiscal year, this came to $321 million of the total of $1.3 billion. The United Nations also assesses the United States a 31 percent share of the peacekeeping budget, which this year is $434 million of a total of $1.4 billion, according to the United Nations.

But since the 1980s, the United States has periodically built up back dues totaling hundreds of millions of dollars.

In some cases, it simply fell behind because Congress failed to appropriate enough money. In others, it deliberately withheld dues for programs it considered unacceptable, like negotiating a treaty on the Law of the Sea and building a conference center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In recent years the United States has attached conditions to payments, giving itself leverage to extract pledges of reform from the organization. It has, among other things, required the United Nations to hire Mr. Connor as a sort of chief financial officer, to reduce the staff and to create an inspector general's office for ferreting out waste.

In part because of dismay at the peacekeeping operations, Congress voted last year to reduce the American share of peacekeeping costs to 25 percent, even though the United Nations continues to assess it 31 percent under a complex formula based on gross national product of member states.

UN diplomats view the unilateral demands as hypocrisy on the part of the organization's biggest deadbeat. But in Washington they reflect deep animosity toward the United Nations, especially among conservatives in Congress.

But for all of the attacks on the organization and Mr. Boutros Ghali, the United Nations has carried out many of the changes demanded by the Americans. It has reduced the number of employees at its headquarters in New York to 8,500, from 12,000 a decade ago. And for the last two years, it has held its operating budget steady at $1.3 billion a year.

In Peru, Spotlight Is on an Unconventional Diplomat

By Clifford Krauss
New York Times Service

LIMA — Michel Minnig had only recently arrived in Peru and had not had time to finish unpacking his boxes when he was suddenly thrust into the biggest crisis in his 11 years at the Red Cross.

Now, as the senior Red Cross representative in Peru, the 44-year-old Swiss aid worker is serving as a negotiator between the Peruvian government and Marxist rebels who are holding 83 hostages in the residence of the Japanese ambassador — an effort that has begun to bear the first tentative fruits of success.

Largely due to Mr. Minnig's efforts, a Peruvian cabinet minister met with the top guerrilla leader Saturday, in the first face-to-face talks since the hostage crisis began Dec. 17.

The meeting was followed by the release of the ambassadors of the Dominican Republic and Malaysia and 18 other hostages. Now Mr. Minnig is attempting to persuade the government to resume Red Cross inspections of its prisons, where hundreds of guerrillas are being held.

Mr. Minnig had previously attended to war victims in Iraq, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Rwanda, Burundi, Azerbaijan and Bosnia-Herzegovina, where he survived driving over a land mine with barely a scratch. But this is the first time he has been thrust into the role of mediator in a hostage crisis.

When rebels of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement stormed the diplomatic party at the residence of the Japanese ambassador, taking hundreds of hostages, it fell to Mr. Minnig to negotiate arrangements for deliveries of food to the captives. But as one mediation effort after another by Canada, Greece, Germany and several other countries collapsed, Mr. Minnig, a Swiss, picked up the diplomatic pieces.

A lanky man with a dry sense of humor, Mr. Minnig often does not look like a conventional diplomat. Though he has been constantly followed around by cameramen since the hostage affair began, his tie is more often than not untied and at times his Red Cross smock is disheveled.

Still, all he has to do is pick up his bullhorn to talk with crowds of reporters, and Peruvian television goes live to broadcast his every comment.

He finds his new celebrity almost amusing. He grins as he makes the simplest statement, "I am leaving to go to meet with government officials," knowing that even something so pedestrian would be considered worthy of breaking into whatever cartoon or soap opera is on the air.

"The world is tragic, but it is also full of humor," Mr. Minnig said in an interview Sunday. "You must keep a distance and not take everything too seriously." But he quickly added that there was nothing funny about armed men taking hostages.

Day after day, as he has shuttled between the rebel-occupied compound and government offices, Mr. Minnig has carried messages back and forth — some written, others verbal.

He pressed Education Minister Domingo Palermo, President Alberto Fujimori's appointed representative, to meet with the rebels directly.

That finally happened Saturday after the rebels gave Mr. Minnig assurances that they would not take Mr. Palermo hostage.

In the potential breakthrough, Mr. Minnig accompanied Mr. Palermo into the residence to meet with Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the Tupac Amaru commander, for more than three hours. When the two came out, along with Bishop Juan Luis Cipriani, who served as a witness to the talks, they brought with them 20 captives.

Mr. Minnig did not join Mr. Palermo, Mr. Cerpa and Bishop Cipriani in their meeting, but he said he would push for more such direct interchanges.

"I don't know if they were smiling at each other," Mr. Minnig said of Mr. Cerpa and Mr. Palermo. "But they were shaking hands and talking." He added: "You cannot start a conversation when tension is at the maximum. That was not the case. The ambiance was favorable."

Still, Mr. Minnig warned that the situation was "still volatile, with armed people inside and armed people outside."

Having arrived in Peru on Oct. 1, Mr. Minnig said that finishing his unpacking and decorating his new home would have to wait until the standoff was over.

"This is not a priority right now," he said, smiling.

Mr. Minnig circumvented questions about how he felt about his new functions, saying that the Red Cross was accustomed to serving as go-between in such situations. But he said he was coping with his new high-stakes diplomatic role as best as he could, in part by relying on his sense of humor.

He said he recently wrote a comic novel just for his friends about a Swiss mountaineer traveling around the world — which he said he made comparable in tone to Voltaire's Candide. Writing it helped to take the edge off his starkly demanding missions, he said.

As for the hostages, Mr. Minnig described the embattled residence as "hardly a guest house," but said the situation had become far less dire in the last week.

"Their basic needs are taken care of," he said. "The situation inside is calm, and there is no torture. These people are hostages, but we are able to maintain a situation of respect."

TRADE: *Multinationals Seeking Profits Sow Prosperity in Asia*

Continued from Page 1

multinational companies now find themselves tipping the balance of economic power in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, propelling some countries rapidly out of poverty with tens of billions of dollars in investments while leaving others behind.

"Accidental ambassadors" is what Debora Spar, a professor at Harvard Business School, calls these companies that seek profit and, virtually as a side effect, sow prosperity.

Company executives say that the search for low-wage labor is only part of what drives decisions on where to invest. With countries everywhere beckoning, investment in the 1990s has become a complex, high-stakes game in which companies seek to discover the perfect mix of stability, infrastructure, educated labor and nascent consumerism — before competitors leap in.

In principle, they say, a single successful formula can apply anywhere. "You go in, you start small, you train the work force," says Alex Trotman, chairman of Ford Motor Co. "Prosperity grows, the size of the business grows. You become a major booster of the economy, creator of a middle class, a provider of jobs."

Much of the new spending in developing countries during the 1990s has gone to build or buy factories; last year, such direct investment totaled $100 billion, up from $34 billion in 1990, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But the accidental ambassadors take many forms. Sometimes they own and operate factories in the country they invest in, as is the case with the major auto companies. Sometimes they sign contracts with suppliers, promising to buy their goods, as do shoe manufacturers like Nike and Reebok. Or they license companies to make goods that carry their brand names, as does the designer Calvin Klein. Or they simply buy goods from suppliers in foreign countries, as the retail chain Wal-Mart does.

In all, more than $400 billion in private capital went into developing countries from 1988 to 1995, according to the United Nations.

Many American companies began to see the advantages of foreign investment and manufacturing in the years after Nike began to flourish in what was then Japan's low-cost economy. The electronics and auto parts industries, among others, began building factories in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean; the sporting goods, toy and clothing industries began buying from local manufacturers in those regions. In nearly all cases, the goods came back to the United States as imports.

This process of expansion began to slow down in the 1980s, contrary to popular perception. But something else unexpectedly began mushrooming.

The countries that had reaped foreign investment began buying the products themselves. Newly salaried workers in Mexico, Taiwan, South Korea and elsewhere bought cars, VCRs, running shoes and designer jeans.

And as the salaries required to support that kind of consumerism kept rising, the companies that had begun the process moved on, looking for new countries where wages were still low.

Throughout Asia, the "needle trade," as Mr. Knight calls shoemaking, has often been one of the first industries to move in, the first to teach manufacturing skills — and the first to feel the need to move on as wages rise.

Working in a shoe factory "doesn't take much education and is very labor intensive," Mr. Knight said. Countries "grow that way until they get to individual worker wages of somewhere around $10,000 a year, and by that time there is a basic infrastructure built, and the workers go across the street and start making computers and cars, and the shoe industry begins to fade," he said. Shoe companies then move on to other, poorer countries, where the process is repeated.

Nike, since the 1970s, has moved like a wave on the map, beginning in Japan, washing through South Korea and Taiwan, then on to Indonesia, China and now Vietnam. Company figures trace the progress of shoes, and nations: In the late 1980s, about 80 percent of Nike shoes were made in Korea or Taiwan, but by 1996 — after those countries had joined the world's middle class and wages had risen — their share of Nike production had fallen to just 22 percent. China and Indonesia, which 20 years ago lacked the infrastructure or investment climate to attract foreign companies, now make 62 percent of Nike's total output.

The result of this process has been the creation of an Asian middle class. Wages in Asia have grown phenomenally in recent years. In China, manufacturing wages rose by more than 27 percent in 1993 and 1994, and by 14.5 percent in 1995, according to a study by the Hong Kong office of Crosby Securities.

Likewise, average wages in Thailand have risen by more than 7 percent annually over the last three years; and in the Philippines, which only recently began attracting foreign investment, wages rose 22.9 percent in 1994 and 16 percent in 1995. In Indonesia, wages rose at double-digit rates in 1995.

Improving workers' living conditions, of course, is not what motivates companies to invest in poor countries. If that happens, it is a byproduct of the search for profits.

For all the stories in which workers somehow benefit, of course, there have been many cases in which foreign factories have abused workers.

Labor unions and social critics in the United States recently singled out Nike's factories in Indonesia, where 120,000 workers produce Nike shoes for a typical salary of $2.28 a day.

To executives of multinational companies, such criticism is irrelevant. Despite the poor working conditions, countries all over the world are desperately seeking foreign investors, and people are eager to work, with applicants lining up outside plant gates.

NEXT: Sub-Saharan Africa has been left out of the global boom and its people have grown poorer in the 1990s.

Guerrillas Allow Hostages to Connect To Outside World

The Associated Press

LIMA — For nearly two weeks, diplomats and other hostages held by leftist rebels have been cut off from the world, trapped in the Japanese ambassador's residence with rare chances to contact worried relatives or friends.

On Monday, however, the Red Cross was collecting letters from friends and relatives of the hostages to bring inside Tuesday, when they planned to gather and take out messages from the remaining 83 captives.

It is the fourth time the guerrillas have permitted an exchange of mail. This time, the hostages will be permitted to send 200 letters and to receive 500, the Red Cross said Monday.

The move was sure to lift the hostages' spirits, along with the fresh clothes, shoes, candles, insecticide, cigarettes and disinfectant the Red Cross was preparing to bring in Monday.

"The emotional stress on the hostages and their families is tremendous," said Luis Watanabe, a Peruvian museum director who was released after five days in captivity. "Their only link has been mutual suffering and uncertainty."

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Unrest in South Korea: the Growing Pains of Democracy?

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

NEWS ANALYSIS

SEOUL — When workers demanded union rights a decade ago and denounced repression by an authoritarian president, they were championed by a longtime campaigner for democracy named Kim Young Sam.

These days, tear gas again stings the eyes as tens of thousands of workers once more take to the streets to demand union rights and denounce what they describe as repression by an authoritarian president — Kim Young Sam.

Why does a democratically elected president like Mr. Kim rely on the riot police and armored tear gas vehicles that were once used against him?

The answers are complex, but they may have less to do with the specific issues that provoked the latest unrest in Seoul and more to do with the broad challenges of creating a democratic political culture. Many countries in Asia and around the world are wrestling with the difficulties of transition to democracy and — like South Korea — are finding that pluralism needs to be based on attitudes as well as on institutions.

"To create democratic institutions is easy," said Kang Tae Hoon, a professor of political science at Dankook University in Seoul. "But to create a democratic process and political culture takes longer. It is hard to change old habits."

Perhaps as many as several hundred thousand workers are on an indefinite general strike in South Korea, demanding the nullification of new labor laws passed by a secret session of Parliament on Thursday.

The laws make it easier for companies to lay off workers, and they delay for three years the authorization of labor unions, which are now technically banned.

Another law passed in the session broadens the powers of the domestic spy agency, and many strikers say Mr. Kim has betrayed the democratic movement and become almost as authoritarian as his predecessors.

"As a union member, I don't see much difference between Kim Young Sam and the old military dictators," said Cho Chul, 36, a hotel cook who carried a banner at a labor rally Sunday. "There's physical oppression, as there was before, and now in addition there's legal and economic repression as well. So it's tougher than before."

Such assertions seem vastly overstated. There is far more democracy now than there was under the dictators, and the best evidence for that is that people like Mr. Cho cheerfully give their names to a reporter. A decade ago almost nobody dared excoriate the president directly, and those few who did often ended up being tortured in prison.

Still, the comparison between Mr. Kim and his predecessors is made by many strikers. One quoted a Korean proverb about how a woman may hate being bullied by her mother-in-law but will also learn to do the same to her own daughter-in-law. The point is that Mr. Kim may have chafed at dictatorship when he was its victim, but he learned the methods and now applies them to his critics.

But if Mr. Kim has an intolerant streak, much the same could be said of the opposition.

The present crisis erupted when the governing party approved new labor laws at a secret session of Parliament with no opposition members present. The party took that step because opposition parties were physically blocking Parliament from meeting, in part because they knew that they would lose a vote.

Song Yon Hyong, 27, a factory worker on strike, looked a bit flummoxed when she was asked if it was not undemocratic of the opposition to use force to prevent the enactment of laws by a majority of legislators.

"Well, it's true that both sides are undemocratic," she said finally. But she added that it was acceptable for the opposition to use undemocratic steps because the governing party had gained a majority only by manipulating coverage of politics in the press.

Conflicts like the present one are sometimes difficult to resolve because Korean politics are so deeply rooted in principles that compromise becomes almost impossible.

In the present dispute, union leaders, women included, have shaved their heads to express their anger at the new labor legislation. That is at least a milder step than that of the 28-year-old union worker who last year expressed his frustration with his employer by setting himself on fire and burning himself to death on company property.

Nothing so horrific has happened in the present confrontation, but the impasse looks difficult to resolve. The strikers say the first step must be for the government to cave in.

"This strike will end only when the laws are nullified," said Park Moon Jin, head of a hospital workers' union.

"Negotiations are impossible until then," she said. "After the laws are revoked, then labor and the government can have a dialogue."

The government, for its part, is denouncing the strike as illegal and suggesting that it might use force to smash the unrest.

While the focus of the confrontation is on the government's policies toward unions, critics also charge that Mr. Kim is undemocratic in a broader sense. They say his government puts pressure on the news media to curb unfriendly coverage, uses the tax authorities to punish its enemies and uses security forces to tap the phones of opposition leaders.

"Democratic institutions are being manipulated by the ruling party," said Lee Dong Bok, a member of a conservative opposition party in Parliament. Commenting on Mr. Kim's years as a democracy campaigner, Mr. Lee added, "If he fought for democracy, he seems to have fought for his own version of democracy, not a universal one."

To be sure, the government denies that it abuses the legal process in these ways. And some of the most obvious authoritarian policies of Mr. Kim — like the ban on anyone saying nice things about Communist North Korea — have broad popular support.

There is also no question that South Korea, for all its political hiccups, is a functioning democracy.

Indeed, the vigor of the political debate shows that South Korea is becoming more open.

A government official said the new labor laws had been carefully drafted over many months and were simply the product of an honest desire to make the South Korean economy more competitive. "This government is fully committed to reform," the official said. "But sometimes you find that reform is more difficult than revolution."

Seoul Strikers Take a Break

New York Times Service

SEOUL — Trade unions suspended their five-day-old general strike Monday for the New Year's holidays, but they threatened to resume with more force than ever at the beginning of next week.

A clash between strikers and nonstrikers left several people injured Monday, but by and large the day was peaceful as striking subway workers in Seoul returned to the job and hospitals returned to full operation. The streets of Seoul were filled with shoppers.

The strike is the biggest in the nation's history, with perhaps as many as several hundred thousand people joining in for the last few days. While the strike has not come close to paralyzing the nation's economy as a whole, it has shut down many factories in the automobile manufacturing and ship-building sectors, and disrupted some hospitals and subway systems.

Tibetan Exiles Deny Role in Blast

China May Increase Repression, Dalai Lama's Office Warns

Reuters

NEW DELHI — Tibet's government-in-exile on Monday denied responsibility for a bombing in Lhasa last week and said it feared that China would use the explosion as an excuse to increase repression in its Himalayan homeland.

"We are concerned that the Chinese authorities may use the latest incident of a bomb blast in Lhasa as a pretext for increasing political repression in Tibet," said a statement by the exiled government, headquartered in India's Himalayan foothills.

China launched a manhunt across the mountainous region after the Christmas Day explosion outside city government offices in the Tibetan capital. The government has also announced a reward of one million yuan ($120,000) for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the bomb.

Regional government officials have vowed to retaliate, signaling a possible renewed crackdown on anti-Chinese unrest in the region.

Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, has been based in Dharamsala in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh since he fled there in 1959 following a failed anti-Chinese uprising.

Chinese officials have said there was little doubt that the blast was politically motivated and carried out by followers of the Dalai Lama.

Denying this, Kalon Tashi Wangdi, the exiled government's information minister, said in the statement: "We would like to categorically point out that Dharamsala has absolutely nothing to do with this bomb blast or all the previous blasts which the Chinese authorities have accused us of."

Chinese officials have said that no one was hurt in the explosion, but the statement from Dharamsala put the number of wounded at five.

"We are sad that five people have been injured," the information minister said.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama has publicly stated on numerous occasions that he would abdicate his leadership of the Tibetan people if the Tibetan freedom struggle turns violent."

Mr. Wangdi added that the exiled government remained committed to a negotiated political settlement.

The Dalai Lama, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his nonviolent campaign to win autonomy for his homeland, says he wants self-government and freedom of worship in the deeply religious Buddhist region.

Several much smaller bombs have been set off in Lhasa in the last two years, including one in 1995 that caused slight damage to a plaque donated by Beijing and another last March outside the headquarters of the Tibet regional government.

Romeo Gacad/Agence France-Presse

HONORING A HERO — Children in Manila watching through barriers during a parade in honor of the reform leader Jose Rizal. His execution on Dec. 30, 1896, sparked a revolution against Spanish rule.

KOREA: *Ashes of Infiltrators Returned*

Continued from Page 1

ment reached with Washington in 1994 not to develop nuclear weapons and to cooperate again in the attempt to locate and identify the remains of Americans still missing from the war. The United States, for its part, agreed to once again consider a deal by an American company to deliver grain to the North, which has suffered severe shortages of food.

All of those issues had been the subject of negotiations between the United States and the Koreas for months, but they came to a dead halt after the submarine ran aground in what the South Koreans consider virtually an act of war, heightening tensions on the peninsula to levels not seen in years.

"The negative atomosphere that has hung over us for nearly two months has been cleared away so that there is a real possibility now for moving forward on the ideas that we have, that the South has, that the North has," Sandra Kristoff, senior director for Asian affairs at the National Security Council, said at a press conference at the State Department on Monday.

Although the statement of regret Sunday was, by North Korean standards, a model of humility and contrition, the acceptance of the remains Monday was less gracious.

North Korean honor guards came to the border at Panmunjom, the "truce village" and occasional crossing point between the two Koreas, to accept 24 small wooden boxes containing the ashes of the infiltrators. They then held a ceremony on the North Korean side and denounced South Korean troops for hunting down their comrades.

"The South Korean puppets mobilized several hundred thousand troops and committed the barbarous act of mercilessly killing our soldiers," a North Korean officer declared. The ceremony was shown on South Korean television, but South Korean officials, still beaming over the North Korean statement of regret, took it in stride.

After the submarine ran aground, and the armed crew of 26 came ashore, the South Koreans launched a hunt for the infiltrators. The commandos killed some South Korean civilians who stumbled on their hiding places.

Of the 26 infiltrators, one was caught alive and has cooperated with his South Korean captors. Another is still missing. Thirteen were killed by South Korean troops and 11 were found dead, apparently executed by their own comrades.

The submarine's mission is still unclear, intelligence experts say, although they believe from the size of the crew and the rank of the officers that it was not a typical intelligence-gathering mission. Some of the commandos were disguised with South Korean uniforms and machine guns. One theory is that they were planning to set up some kind of mountain hideout or future base.

Another mystery is the killing two weeks after the submarine incident of a South Korean diplomat in Russia. The killers did not take money and were described by witnesses as East Asians, and so diplomats suspect that the slaying may have been a retaliation by North Korea for the killing of the infiltrators.

South Korean officials said Monday that the North Korean apology would allow Washington and Seoul to end a rift over policy toward North Korea and cooperate more closely in easing tensions on the peninsula. South Korea has complained that the United States does not always consult it adequately in dealing with the North.

President Kim thanked the United States Monday for helping to elicit the North Korean statement of regret and called for further close cooperation.

"Korea-United States cooperation is most crucial to the success of a policy toward North Korea, and it conforms with the interests of our two countries," Mr. Kim said.

SINGAPORE: *Blunt Message to Voters Sets Scene for Election*

Continued from Page 1

They'll become slums. That's my message."

In a subsequent open letter to Singaporeans, the governing party, known by its initials as the PAP, noted that the flats would increase in value after upgrading.

"Please remember that the PAP government cannot upgrade all estates at the same time," the letter said. "Our resources are limited. Which ones to upgrade first will depend on you. If you give strong support, you will be first in line."

Opposition candidates protest that the party's decision to link the upgrading program to political affiliation amounts to vote-buying.

Chia Shi Teck, a businessman running as an independent, said that though the government rationalized its action by saying that the upgrading was a government program, the "flaw here is that the money comes from all taxpayers."

In Washington, a State Department spokeswoman also criticized the move last week, saying, "We believe that voters everywhere should be able to vote without fear of repercussions from government as a result of their responsibilities as citizens."

The U.S. comment drew an official protest from Singapore, which denounced it as "undisguised interference" in the country's domestic politics.

Information Minister George Yeo, noting that "pork-barrel politics has a very long tradition" in the United States, commented: "So I find it quite strange that the Americans should be enunciating a principle which clearly doesn't apply in America itself."

Many Western officials and analysts find it equally strange that the Singapore government is so concerned about the possible growth of a credible political opposition in the island-state.

Opposition parties held four seats in the old 81-member Parliament. In the current elections, weak and fragmented opposition groups and independents are running for only 36 of the 83 parliamentary seats being contested, thus posing no challenge to the People's Action Party's hold on power. Since the governing party is contesting all seats, it is guaranteed a comfortable majority.

While critics complain that dissent in Singapore is systematically discouraged, even some opposition members concede that the governing party's dominance is largely a result of its achievements in delivering economic growth, full employment and better housing, health care, education, living standards and quality of life for an overwhelming majority of Singaporeans.

Singapore's average per capita income was $22,400 in 1995, the ninth highest in the world. Still, many Singaporeans grumble about high costs of goods and services, an issue that the opposition is seeking to exploit.

J. B. Jeyaretnam, a lawyer and veteran leader of the opposition Workers' Party, said that as Singaporeans became increasingly well-educated and affluent, they wanted more say in government.

"The people's desire at the moment," he said, "is that some checks, some brakes, must now come into place in Singapore to stop the PAP from behaving autocratically in any way it pleases without consulting the people."

Yet ahead of the elections, the government changed the voting system to increase the number of multimember constituencies at the expense of single-seat wards. The opposition charged that this would make it harder for its candidates to win seats in Parliament.

As a result of the changes, almost nine out of 10 members of Parliament will come from Group Representation Constituencies, each having between four and six members of Parliament headed by a minister. In the Parliament elected in 1991, just over seven out of 10 members were from such constituencies.

Prime Minister Goh said that enlarging the group constituencies would give more authority and responsibility to residents to manage their own public housing estates. But analysts say that such constituencies favor large, well-established parties, such as the People's Action Party.

Candidates on a multimember slate must either be from the same party or each must be an independent. One member of the team must be from Singapore's non-Chinese ethnic minorities.

In 1991, the People's Action Party's share of the vote was just over 59 percent, down from 75.5 percent in 1980.

The government is concerned that if its vote share goes down again or the opposition gains more seats, this could start to undermine the business and investment confidence that it considers critical to the nation's prosperity.

Reuben Rahman/Agence France-Presse

Singapore's prime minister, Goh Chok Tong, at an election rally Monday.

More Rwandan Trials Signaled

Reuters

KIGALI, Rwanda — Two Rwandans appeared in court on Monday for the first genocide trials in the Rwandan capital but their cases were immediately adjourned.

Deputy Justice Minister Gerard Gahima later announced that more genocide trials would take place on Tuesday in the northeastern city of Byumba.

One of the suspects was named as Francois Bizimana while the other was said to be a former speaker of Rwanda's Parliament whose name was not immediately known.

A court in Kigali adjourned the trial of Silas Munyageshali, a former prosecutor in Kigali, to an unfixed date.

A three-man panel of judges headed by Judge Juriel Rutaremara ruled that it would be unfair to try Mr. Munyageshali in the same court he previously served as prosecutor.

The trial of Theodomir Ruzirabwoba, a 50-year-old former administrator in Kigali, was adjourned until Jan. 3.

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BRIEFLY ASIA

China Cautions On Spratly Airstrip

MANILA — China on Monday criticized the Philippines for opening an airstrip on one of the disputed Spratly Islands, but Manila said it was merely upgrading supply lines to its troops there and not building a new garrison.

The Chinese Embassy said in a statement that China "enjoys indisputable sovereignty" over the South China Sea islands and urged the Philippines not to take any action that would harm relations.

The chief of Philippine armed forces, General Arnulfo Acedera, inaugurated the 1.3 kilometer-long (0.8 mile) airstrip on one of the islands in the Kalayaan island group during a visit Dec. 25 to Filipino soldiers in the area.

General Acedera said in a statement Monday that he went to Kalayaan mainly "to bring Christmas cheers to the troops" and also to reopen an existing but renovated airstrip. He denied newspaper reports that Manila planned to set up a new garrison in Kalayaan. *(Reuters)*

Subversion Trial Set For Union Leader

JAKARTA — An Indonesian court Monday ordered a prominent labor leader to stand trial on subversion charges.

Muchtar Pakpahan, chairman of the illegal Indonesian Welfare Labor Union, is accused of expressing hatred for the government of President Suharto. If convicted, he could be sentenced to death.

Mr. Pakpahan originally was accused of inciting anti-government protests that broke out July 27. But prosecutors have not referred to the riots in court, since they apparently cannot link him to the violence. Mr. Pakpahan says he is innocent.

The three-judge panel scheduled a hearing Jan. 9 for prosecution witnesses to testify. *(AP)*

Prayers for Peace At Islamic Conclave

TONGI, Bangladesh — An estimated 2 million Muslims from around the world ended a three-day annual gathering Monday with mass prayers calling for peace through the practice of Islamic tenets, organizers said.

Islamic scholars urged devotees to shun luxuries, follow the teachings of Islam and seek blessings from Allah.

Bangladesh's prime minister, Hasina Wazed, and her arch-rival, Khalida Zia, chief of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, attended the annual ceremony at Tongi, 18 kilometers (12 miles) north of Dhaka.

Nearly 80 couples were married at the event, called Biswa Ijtema, which is believed to have been held at the same site for more than 100 years. *(Reuters)*

War on Pollution At the Taj Mahal

NEW DELHI — India's Supreme Court, cracking down on chemical and carbon fumes threatening the Taj Mahal, on Monday ordered 292 coal-based industries in its vicinity to close by the end of 1997, the United News of India said.

It said the court set Dec. 31, 1997, as the deadline for coke or coal-based industries to leave the Taj Trapezium, the area within a 70-kilometer (44-mile) radius of the famed mausoleum at Agra, about 200 kilometers south of New Delhi. The court also ordered officials to cut off coke and coal supplies to the industries in the area around the monument by April 30, the news agency said.

Environmentalists say the monument has already been severely damaged by carbon smoke and sulfur dioxide fumes that cause a decaying of the rock. *(Reuters)*

EUROPE

Yugoslav Army Insists It Is Not Divided

Vowing to Defend Stability, It Disowns Support for Demonstrators

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELGRADE — The Yugoslav Army denied Monday that it was split over support for President Slobodan Milosevic in his dispute with the opposition as demonstrators marched in Belgrade for the 43d day.

In a statement carried by the official Tanjug news agency, the army chief of staff, General Momcilo Perisic, vowed to defend Serbia's stability. He also criticized statements, apparently by army units, supporting the continuing and huge anti-government rallies.

Buoyed by a statement of support that was said to be from dissident army officers, the demonstrators renewed their demands that Mr. Milosevic recognize opposition victories in local elections last month.

An unsigned and unauthenticated letter, read before 50,000 opposition supporters on Sunday, warned Mr. Milosevic that its authors, which apparently included men of the elite 63d Paratroop Brigade, would refuse to fire on demonstrators if ordered to do so.

The letter also warned the opposition Zajedno coalition that it, too, would be toppled in its turn if it became autocratic in power.

But an official army statement later stressed the service's unity, although it made no pledge of loyalty to Mr. Milosevic. He has struggled for six weeks to contain the protests that have paralyzed Belgrade for more than six hours every day.

The army leadership's statement on Monday denounced any "interpretation of the army's role" that "does not reflect its official position.

"The chief of staff and the army as a whole are unanimous about achieving to the letter their set tasks. Any other interpretation of the army's role does not reflect its official position," the statement said.

Despite police moves to drive demonstrators off main streets, the protest wave is the most sustained push for democratization in 50 years of leftist, one-party rule in Serbia-led Yugoslavia. Although freezing cold and a thick cover of snow limited their numbers, about 5,000 university students tried to march across the Sava River bridge on Monday but were blocked by the police and forced to retreat into a pedestrian mall.

Later, tens of thousands of people backing the Zajedno coalition massed in Republic Square as riot police packed adjacent streets to prevent protesters from swarming into traffic zones.

Dejan Bulatovic, a Zajedno activist who was beaten while in police custody, appeared at the rally after he was released Monday. He served 25 days in jail for carrying an effigy of Mr. Milosevic in prison garb.

"They are wrong if they think we have achieved nothing in these 41 days," one of Zajedno's leaders, Zoran Djindjic, told the crowd.

"We began by chasing a fox that stole our votes and ended up driving a dinosaur out of its lair." *(Reuters, AFP)*

Mladen Antonov/Agence France-Presse

Emir Kusturica, the Yugoslav film director of "Underground," telling demonstrators Monday he supported them.

BELGRADE: *Beginning of the End?*

Continued from Page 1

striking. The Communist system in Serb-led Yugoslavia has proved both more flexible and more entrenched than the governments that fell in 1989 as soon as it became clear that they were no longer backed by the Soviet Union.

"This is a homegrown Communist regime that carried out its own revolution, and was answerable to its own people," said a Western diplomat here. "In that sense, Milosevic has more legitimacy than the other Communist leaders."

In contrast to the rest of Eastern Europe, which was freed from German rule during World War II by the Red Army, Yugoslavia largely liberated itself. Having borne the brunt of the fighting against the Nazi occupiers, Tito's Communist partisans found themselves in a privileged position at the end of the war. Alone among East European Communist parties, they refused to passively take orders from Stalin, and were expelled from the Moscow-led international Communist movement in 1948.

After Mikhail Gorbachev began to liberalize the Soviet Union, the East European regimes were swept away. In Yugoslavia, however, the one-party mentality proved much more tenacious.

Mr. Milosevic was able to preserve his power base in Serbia, the largest of six former Yugoslav republics, by tapping into a rich vein of Serbian nationalism. His political transformation led to the rise of counternationalisms in the other republics. Then came the violent destruction first of Yugoslavia and then of Bosnia, where all the nationalisms ultimately collided.

Almost a decade later, Mr. Milosevic is witnessing the bitter fruits of his successful power grab. His dream of a single Serbian state, streching from the Danube almost to the Adriatic, lies in ruins.

More than 600,000 refugees from Serb-inhabited areas of Croatia and Bosnia have fled to Serbia proper. Serbia is economically devastated and internationally isolated.

The fact that Mr. Milosevic has managed not only to remain in power, but also to shift much of the blame for the disaster onto others, shows his ability to manipulate Serbia's political culture.

"He is a political genius," said an East European diplomat. "He lost everything, but somehow emerged a winner."

Paradoxically, Serbia's poverty and international pariah status may actually have contributed to Mr. Milosevic's longevity. The Serbian leader has posed as the guarantor of a minimum standard of living for ordinary people that could be imperiled by radical economic reforms. At the same time, he has been able to convince a significant portion of Serbia's 10 million population that the rest of the world is against it.

"The big powers do not want a strong Serbia," Mr. Milosevic said at a rally last week in Belgrade. "That is why they are attempting to destabilize the country through the creation of a fifth column."

Such rhetoric does not impress the urbanized elite, but it plays well in the countryside, which has always been the backbone of support for Mr. Milosevic.

Even in the cities, public opinion is divided. For every citizen of Belgrade who has taken part in the demonstrations, at least five or six have stayed home.

At the height of the demonstrations, about 200,000 of Belgrade's two million residents may have been on the streets. Over the past few days, daily attendance has dropped to 10,000 or so, partly because of bitterly cold weather and partly because of police intimidation.

While talk of Mr. Milosevic's imminent demise seems premature, he has suffered a major political setback. The opposition has been reinvigorated. The process of normalizing relations with the West, which would allow Yugoslavia to regain access to international credit markets, has been set back by many months. Cracks have begun to appear in the hitherto monolithic regime.

The leaders of Montenegro, a mountainous republic which is Serbia's junior partner in the rump Yugoslavia, are also distancing themselves from the Milosevic regime. If the Montenegrins were to withdraw support from Mr. Milosevic in the federal Parliament, his political position would be gravely weakened.

"There are two superpowers that can affect the situation in Serbia," joked Vuk Draskovic, a leader of the opposition coalition. "The United States and Montenegro."

Serbia's economic situation is unlikely to improve so long as Mr. Milosevic is in power.

"He has no intention of embarking on reforms, and this is what is ultimately going to destroy him," said Mr. Djindjic, the Democratic Party leader. "He has created a system which is not able to survive over the long term."

INTERNATIONAL

Hebron Accord Is Reported Close

Agreement Could Be Signed on Tuesday, Negotiators Say

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JERUSALEM — Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was poised to hand over the occupied West Bank town of Hebron to Palestinian self-rule.

Both sides said that some obstacles remained, but that the elusive agreement on turning most of Hebron over to Palestinian control was finally within reach.

An aide to Yasser Arafat said the deal to transfer 80 percent of Hebron would be signed at a meeting on Tuesday between the Palestinian leader and Mr. Netanyahu if negotiators wrapped up unresolved issues by then.

"Otherwise, negotiations will continue and the agreement will be signed either Thursday or Friday," the aide to Mr. Arafat said.

The U.S. special envoy, Dennis Ross, who pushed and pulled the sides together, flew in from Washington on Monday to mediate any last-minute snags. He met with Mr. Netanyahu in Jerusalem soon after his arrival.

"We expect to conclude today all the subjects," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai of Israel said earlier when he joined talks with Palestinian officials. "After signing, in a very short time redeployment will take place."

Under the Israeli-Palestinian accords, Israel was to have pulled out of most of Hebron by last March, retaining a security force around several enclaves of Jewish settlers who believe that they are staking a biblical claim to Hebron through their presence there among 150,000 Palestinians.

But the pullout was delayed after a series of terror attacks in Israel last spring, and on taking office in June, Mr. Netanyahu reopened negotiations to try to stiffen the security arrangements.

Mr. Arafat has used the renewed negotiations to press demands of his own, including a detailed schedule for the fulfillment of other Israeli commitments under the peace agreements, such as the release of Palestinian prisoners and a transit road between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Mr. Netanyahu ran an election campaign against the self-rule accords that Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, his Nobel Peace Prize-winning predecessors, signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Hebron, long a flashpoint of violence between Arabs and Jews, is the last of seven West Bank towns scheduled for self-rule under a 1995 agreement.

Under pressure from Washington, Israel's closest ally, Mr. Netanyahu stayed in the negotiations while emphasizing that 20 percent of the town would remain under Israeli control.

According to Palestinian officials, one major issue was the Palestinian demand for joint Palestinian-Israeli security arrangements around the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a site sacred to Jews and Muslims.

At present, Israeli forces alone police a strictly segregated schedule of worship for Jews and Muslims, and Israel wants to maintain the arrangement.

Palestinian concerns about security at the site have heightened since a Jewish settler from nearby Qiryat Arba massacred 29 Palestinians worshipping there in 1994.

Other issues reportedly still in dispute include how and when to open to Palestinians a street that runs past the Jewish enclaves, the width of the proposed buffer zones around the Jewish areas, and the number of police officers in the joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols.

Also unresolved is an Israeli demand to build freely in Jewish enclaves; the Palestinians insist that the Jews must seek Palestinian permission.

Underscoring tensions in Hebron, Israeli troops arrested several Palestinian construction workers Monday after Jewish settlers complained they were working close to a Jewish enclave in the town.

In Parliament, Mr. Netanyahu's coalition handily defeated a motion of no confidence in the government proposed by the far-right Moledet party in protest at the Hebron deal.

But several coalition members stayed away during the vote to show they opposed the agreement. Four of the 18 cabinet members say they will oppose the deal in a cabinet vote.

Defending the accord to Likud Party colleagues, Mr. Netanyahu said the draft agreement contained at least 10 "significant changes" from that signed by Labor a year ago. *(Reuters, NYT, AP)*

Jewish Settler Kills Palestinian

Reuters

GAZA — A Jewish settler shot and killed a Palestinian who entered a settlement area in the Gaza Strip on Monday, the Israeli Army said.

Security sources said the shooting — which coincided with a critical stage in negotiations over a long-delayed troop pullout in the West Bank town of Hebron — took place in the Kfar Darom settlement, a frequent target of guerrilla attacks.

The Israeli Army confirmed the killing, first reported by the security sources, but said that the circumstances were still under investigation.

The army radio quoted the settler as saying he opened fire when the Palestinian attacked him. The settler was detained for questioning, it said.

It was not immediately known if the dead man had been armed, an army spokeswoman said.

Witnesses said large numbers of Israeli soldiers and other security forces closed off the Kfar Darom area, an enclave near Palestinian refugee camps.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Vatican Condemns Anti-Semitic Raid

ROME — The Vatican on Monday condemned a desecration of Jewish graves in Rome, calling it "an offense against history," while Jewish leaders said they were worried about the growth of anti-Semitism in Italy.

Vandals attacked the graves early Sunday, breaking tombstones and ripping the names and Stars of David off others. Jewish leaders blamed the attack on skinheads.

The Vatican spokesman, Joaquin Navarro Valls, called the attack "an offense to the memory of the dead and an offense to history."

One tomb was surrounded with barbed wire and swastikas with the words *"Arbeit macht frei,"* or work brings freedom, the slogan at the entrance to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

Shimon Samuels, director for international affairs for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Paris-based Jewish rights group, said in a telephone interview he believed a neo-Nazi group with international contacts had carried out the attack.

Judicial sources said Rome magistrates were investigating the possible involvement in the attack of rightist sympathizers linked to a group known as the "Western Political Movement." *(Reuters)*

Blair Aims to Bring Government Down

LONDON — The Labour Party leader, Tony Blair, called Monday for national elections as soon as possible, pledging to use all means to bring down the government before the May 1997 deadline for the voting.

In a New Year's message, Mr. Blair said Prime Minister John Major's government — now a minority administration — had been drifting aimlessly for more than a year. "As the government staggers on, we will seek to bring it down in any way we can, in accordance with the national interest and proper parliamentary procedure," he said. *(Reuters)*

Slovenian Seeks End To Political Impasse

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia — President Milan Kucan gave the acting prime minister, Janez Drnovsek, the task of forming a new government on Monday, but the center-left leader acknowledged he faced an uphill struggle.

Mr. Kucan urged all party leaders to try to break a political deadlock that arose from inconclusive general elections on Nov. 10.

Mr. Drnovsek's Liberal Democrats emerged as the strongest party, with 25 of 90 parliamentary seats. But Mr. Drnovsek is pitted against an alliance made up of the conservative People's Party and the center-right Social Democrats and Christian Democrats.

Together, they won 45 seats, one short of a majority. *(Reuters)*

Eurostar Train Needs A Tow Out of Tunnel

LONDON — A Eurostar passenger train traveling from London to Paris became stranded in the Channel tunnel Monday and had to be towed out, the police said.

"It would appear that the train was stuck due to an electronic systems failure," said a spokeswoman for the Kent police, the local force on the English side of the rail link.

"The train had to be dragged out of the tunnel with another unit," the spokeswoman said.

She said there had not been an emergency situation, but there had been short delays in service. *(AFP)*

Spanish Train Crash Kills 3 and Hurts 16

BRESCIA, Italy — Riding along the same icy track, two commuter trains collided near this northern city Monday, killing three people and injuring 16 others, the authorities said.

Some of the injured were in critical condition, said Luca Argentieri, chief of staff in the prefect's office in Brescia. *(AP)*

EMPIRE: *Asians Provide Jobs in Britain*

Continued from Page 1

kets. The regions get jobs. While the jobs do not compare in pay or benefits or security with the ones they had in the shipyards and mines, the workers are grateful nonetheless, because for most of them the alternative is worse.

Consider, for example, Kenneth Chapman, who used to work at a coal pit — which was closed during the Thatcher era — hauling huge steel girders to shore up the mine's walls. Now he works on the assembly line at an ultra-modern microwave-oven factory near here owned by LG Electronics, better known by its brand name, Lucky Goldstar.

Mr. Chapman knew the work would be different from the moment he went for his job interview. He reported not to some grubby foreman's office, but to a clean, modular building sprawling across an industrial park. No shop steward. No smokestacks. No smoking. And something called "quality assurance."

To get the job, the man who used to haul steel girders took, and passed, a dexterity test — he was timed as he stuck little pieces of metal into printed circuit boards. He now works on a modern assembly line where everything is timed: So many ovens get made in so many seconds, with just so much inventory waiting for the next batch — the "just-in-time system."

At 38, Mr. Chapman earns less now than he did almost 20 years ago in the mine — $240 a week now versus $300 a week then — and there are no extras, no system of bonuses that gave him a little more money for a little more coal.

"The methods are strange," Mr. Chapman said. "The British method is more easygoing. The Koreans, Japanese, they put a time limit" on every step in the process.

But not all the workers at LG see their jobs as a step down. For Mandy Little, 25, it was a step up.

Her memory of coal mining starts where Mr. Chapman's ends, when the mining company laid off her father. As a girl, she watched the area deteriorate. When she left school at 16, she and most of the other girls her age in Seaham, near here, went to work in a garment factory where they made clothes for Marks and Spencer, the British department store chain. It was piecework and the pay was unsteady, ranging from about $200 to about $230 a week, insufficiently predictable for her to rent her own place and move out of her parents' home.

The new job carries a regular weekly check of about $240. When it is combined with the nights she works at The Lazy Pig pub, her earnings have allowed her to rent a house with a friend. She's got a new car, a subcompact Seat Ibiza, and she is spending money redecorating her house.

Her job consists of making performance checks on television sets as they move down the assembly line. She checks the color and the quality of the image on each channel for about 1,000 screens a day. Asked whether she had any gripes about work, she thought of only one: She would like permission to play a radio at work, to help pass the time.

"In an English factory, that's the first thing you hear, a radio," she said. "My little heart would be content if I just had a radio." She has heard nothing back on her request and cannot figure out why.

The only miners left around here are little carved figurines made of "genuine Newcastle coal" that cost a few dollars at souvenir shops. Every now and then, Mr. Chapman and his buddies — men who work with him at the Korean-owned factory and used to work at the mines — get together at a pub and talk about old times, nostalgically, men only.

They know they have become what they used to call "cheap labor," the term workers in developed countries use when complaining about being put out of work by low-wage employees in such places as Taiwan and Korea.

"It's like all Korean and Japanese and that type of company" in the area now, they say. These companies know they can offer a lower rate of pay "because jobs are hard to get."

Those whose job it is to attract investment say the issue of national pride is outmoded. It no longer matters which nation makes what, says Andrew Fraser, executive director of the Invest in Britain Bureau, a government agency. "As they say, 'Toyota is made in Toyota,'" he says.

Some of the workers, on the other hand, wonder why Britain has become so dependent on the Toyotas, the Samsungs, the Daewoos and the LGs of the world. They think something went wrong here.

Role Reversal

As jobs in the shipyards and coal mines of Britain disappeared, foreign investors from South Korea and Taiwan–once considered Third World countries– built factories and created employment in the depressed areas of Britain–considered a rich country. Here are some of the larger investments, in order of jobs created.

Company	Location	Product	No. of jobs created	Completion date
LG Electronics	Wales	PC chips,TV components	6,100	1996
Chungwa Picture Tubes Co. Ltd.	Scotland	Cathode ray tubes	3,300	1995
Daewoo Electronics Ltd.	N. Ireland	VCR's	1,030	1988/96
Lite-On Group	Scotland	Computer monitors	1,000	1997
LG Electronics	England	Microwave ovens, TV's	535	1988/94
Tatung Co.	England	TV's, satellite receivers	500	1984
Dae Ryung Group	N. Ireland	Satellite receivers	500	1995
Mitac International Corp.	England	Computers	400	1987
Halla Business Group	Wales	Excavators, forklifts	309	1996
CMC Magnetics Corp.	England	Floppy disks	300	1993
Shin Ho Tech	Scotland	PC monitors	300	1996

Source: Department of Trade and Industry The Washington Post

Kohl Seeks Support On Welfare Cuts

Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in a New Year's message, is calling on Germans to accept cuts in the comprehensive welfare system and meet new economic challenges if they want to maintain prosperity.

The text of Mr. Kohl's televised address was released in advance on Monday.

"We Germans can't just go on doing what we always have," the address said. "Anyone who tries to do this is gambling away our future."

Mr. Kohl urged unions, employers and politicians to work together to secure economic recovery, especially in the interests of the 4 million Germans who are out of work.

And he made clear that the scope of the welfare system would continue to be narrowed.

EUROPE: *British Politicians Bristle at Kinkel's Advice on Voting*

Continued from Page 1

a future dominated by bossy Germans — Europe's largest economy and presumed loudest voice.

Bonn's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Martin Erdmann, said at a news conference that his boss had "certainly not intended" to interfere in the domestic political affairs of a fellow EU nation.

But that denial came only after he had underscored every Euroskeptic's worst fears of a loss of sovereignty by saying, "In a European Union which aspires to become a political union, interference in internal affairs is by definition hardly possible."

Mr. Kinkel's comments come at the end of one of the worst years in Britain's relationship with Europe since it joined the then European Community nearly 25 years ago. It has been a year marked by heated and repeated disputes over everything from European fishing quotas to Britain's handling of the outbreak of so-called mad cow disease.

Those battles have transformed what has long been Europe's least enthusiastic backer of closer ties into a nation making fitful tries at the role of party wrecker — at the darkest of times pledging to hold to a policy of "noncooperation" with its Continental partners, and at the best of times insisting that closer European ties and an expanded EU must not mean the loss of such precious national prerogatives as Britain's veto over important decisions.

What Mr. Kinkel has done is to throw the focus of Britain's forthcoming election back on a subject — Europe — that has already almost ruined the ruling Conservative Party and shows potential to sow divisiveness in the ranks of the opposition parties as well.

Britain's Labour Party, with its commanding 20 percent lead in the polls, has long been seen on the Continent as the best hope of bringing Britain back into the heart of European affairs.

Labour's ardor for Europe may be cooling off, however. New evidence of that came Monday with the response Mr. Kinkel's comments received from the party's foreign affairs spokesman, Robin Cook.

"We have stressed that a Labour government could only join a single currency with the consent of the British people," he said.

With Britain's economic recovery in its fourth year, with unemployment now below 7 percent versus the stumbling economic revivals in Europe and still-rising, double-digit joblessness, the appeal of closer ties to the Continent is limited — for voters as well as politicians.

Tim Melville-Ross, for instance, the director-general of the Institute of Directors, a group representing 40,000 executives from mostly small- and medium-sized companies issued his own New Year's message Monday. In it he urged the government to reject the single currency, saying that joining up "would so constrain our economic freedom as to make it virtually impossible for us to compete successfully."

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
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Post-Oslo Challenge

Hebron is a special case. It is the last West Bank city still under Israeli occupation; a few hundred Jews, religious-minded settlers, live downtown surrounded by more than 100,000 Arabs. In tranquil times, a security package for the settlers would be hard enough to arrange. In the current tension, it is hellishly difficult. The tension, though, is not so much over Hebron. It is about what is to come afterward.

In the Oslo accords for an interim settlement with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, Israel agreed to conduct four successive Hebron and post-Hebron West Bank redeployments, or limited withdrawals. Had Labor won in May, it presumably would have acted on that obligation. Labor was moving to explicit acceptance of a Palestinian state, and the three further redeployments would have foreshadowed that state's territorial boundaries. But Labor lost.

Likud, which had campaigned against Oslo, won. Thus did Benjamin Netanyahu come to power legally committed as prime minister to respect Oslo's terms but politically committed as party leader to repudiate them. Likud realizes that Hebron puts it on the slippery slope to Labor's Palestinian state. No wonder, despite prodigious American prodding, that the Hebron talks go so slowly.

In Israel, it is being debated whether the government should skip Oslo or at least the redeployments that Oslo requires beyond Hebron, and instead proceed directly to "final status" negotiations on borders, settlers, Jerusalem and so on. Not that these talks would have a snowball's chance in July. But deadlock both on Oslo implementation and on final-status negotiation may have a certain appeal for an Israeli government that rejects the notion of a Palestinian state and is prepared to favor the holding of territory over the reaching of agreement and peace.

The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are at a dangerous place. The Israelis are reluctant to surrender territory, and the Palestinians are reluctant to provide the security that is the inarguable quid pro quo. The old formulas of land for peace and a state for security are fading. In these circumstances it is not enough for President Bill Clinton to send his negotiators back for one after another session on Hebron. His administration must accept the large new post-Oslo dimension of the problem and engage Israeli and Palestinian leaders directly on it.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Copyright Treaties

The passage of two new global treaties on copyright in Geneva — one on written material, one on sound recordings — goes a long step toward laying the groundwork for applying international law to the Internet's international activity. The 160 countries that agreed to the treaties still must pass legislation of their own to implement and enforce them, so their actual effect on the Net is hard to gauge. But the action taken at the World Intellectual Property Organization meeting was notable also for the degree to which domestic interest groups — nonprofit and educational groups as well as companies — were able to influence a process that many had feared would turn out to be an end run around opposition at home.

One question going into the Geneva meeting was whether the voices of U.S. domestic interests would be adequately heard there. The answer seems to be a tentative "yes," with no small role being played in the trans-Atlantic lobbying by the Internet itself.

The conference's best decision was to table indefinitely an ill-advised proposal for a treaty to create a new intellectual property right in electronic databases. Critics also blocked several clauses that might have criminalized types of copying that are considered legal when done on paper — for instance, photocopying an article to send to a friend. (The delegates adopted language that protects the right to "fair use" of copyright material, a turnaround from earlier drafts.) These moves are signs that lobbying has begun making the transition from domestic to global.

That the critics' worst fears did not materialize is good news for the thriving U.S. information and telecommunications industries, not to mention commercial and noncommercial users of the new medium.

Many of the more interesting and hard-fought questions about the future shape of electronic property rights remain to be worked out at home. Many service providers particularly are concerned about the treaties' refusal to protect them from liability for infringements by people using their services; they argue, with considerable logic, that a service provider forced to vet all e-mail messages or electronic transactions would have to charge prohibitive prices for the service. As usual, this is a matter of what parallels or definitions lawmakers choose to adopt. Are these providers entitled to phone-company-style protection, or are they a new kind of beast altogether?

The Geneva treaties did not, as feared, close off those questions before they could be asked. There is room, and need, for scrutiny to continue.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

'Hidden Epidemic'

Even without counting AIDS or HIV infections, the United States has a higher rate of sexually transmitted diseases than any other developed country. That is the finding of a distinguished panel of health care experts assembled by the Institute of Medicine, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences. In a recent report, the panel recommends a national public education and awareness campaign to combat what it calls a "hidden epidemic."

Last year half of the 10 most common diseases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were sexually transmitted diseases, including chlamydial infection, syphilis and gonorrhea. Most of these diseases are curable, but without treatment they can cause infertility, cancer, birth defects and even death.

They cost taxpayers $10 billion a year in direct costs like Medicaid and indirect costs like higher health premiums. The panel calculated that for every $1 spent by the government to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, $43 is spent on treatment and other costs. The inattention to prevention has been fed by a general reluctance to talk about diseases related to sexual activity.

The persistence of these diseases underscores a need for new strategies, including more prevention efforts directed toward teenagers and women. Adolescents account for 25 percent of the 12 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases each year. Women suffer disproportionately from complications associated with sexually transmitted diseases, from chronic pelvic pain to infertility and cervical cancer.

While the panel would like more funding for prevention of these diseases, it places even greater emphasis on the need for more open discussion of sexual activity and its consequences. Doctors would profit from forthright talks with patients about sexual behavior as part of routine health examinations, and patients would benefit from more screening for diseases like chlamydia. In addition, the report suggests, while teenagers should be encouraged to delay sexual activity, those who engage in sex ought to be told how to avoid diseases. The report makes clear that reducing the rate of infection means bringing this epidemic out in the open.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

A Priority for the Red Cross

The debate presently under way in the International Committee of the Red Cross on the future of humanitarian interventions is of crucial importance. Although of little consequence in the short term, proposals aimed at preventing conflict, such as on what the ICRC can do to hinder the international arms trade or prevent the use of land mines, will be at the heart of the ICRC's future efforts. If the Red Cross movement is to be successful in its mission, it cannot continue merely to respond passively to crises, but must take the initiative to at least try to prevent them.

— Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Zurich).

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Europe Isn't Russia and Shouldn't Be Bullied

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — The issue of NATO's enlargement, arguably the most important with which Bill Clinton will have to deal as his second term begins, deserves to be taken to a higher plane. It is not an arcane technical question but an emotionally and culturally insistent one. In Central Europe, it is about a quest for comfort in a region that has known much pain. In the democratic West, it is about core identity.

Arriving in Budapest in 1988, I became the latest traveler to note "the pervasive Western-ness of Hungary, evident in the Viennese look of Budapest — hauntingly beautiful even in the March grayness, in its church and intellectual traditions and the ironic cast of mind, in the history, including the recent history (1944-1947, 1956) of democratic experience, in the flashes of resentment that the West abandoned Hungary at Versailles and later."

The Holocaust memoirist Primo Levi wrote of arriving in Hungary on his way home from Auschwitz: "We now felt ourselves in Europe, protected by a civilization which was ours." This statement seems to me to pierce to the heart of a NATO debate that has got hung up on abstract concepts of "security architecture" and "drawing a line."

Yes, we should be talking about security. But first we should be talking about Primo Levi's civilization of Europe, the ideas and institutions that, however imperfectly applied, define what needs most to be defined and favored in the West.

A line already is drawn in Europe — a line of culture and tradition, the abiding realities. On one side is Europe, and on the other is Russia. The drawing of this line is not something that diplomats have newly undertaken. It was done over centuries by the people who lived there.

It is not simply a hostility to Russia that makes the Central Europeans long for a political place matching their undeniable historical place in the West, although there is a hostility to Russia, and it has its reasons. It is a craving to correct the cruel acts by which the Central European and other non-Russian parts of the Soviet empire were forcibly isolated from their authentic roots.

The West's Russia-firsters are reluctant to acknowledge that history has drawn a line between Europe and Russia. To say so burdens the democrats in Russia. This is reason enough to justify a certain discretion. But it is not reason enough to make others pay heavily and indefinitely to polish the pale image of Russia as a Western nation.

You do not have to be a cultural determinist, or to believe that civilizational clash is the dynamic of contemporary politics, in order to have a healthy respect for the factors that make Europe Europe and Russia Russia.

This is what is lost down the memory hole when the experts talk of not overloading Russia's psychological and political circuits by moving NATO too far and too fast to the east, of not pressing Russia at a time when its historical fears of invasion and encirclement have been aggravated by its recent loss of great-power parity, empire, alliance and buffer.

These are among the currents playing in Moscow. They also play in the minds of the West's Russia-firsters. Considerations of prudence require us to be attentive to the churning in a state whose partnership it is still imperative to cultivate in a variety of ways.

But considerations of a higher order — of fidelity to our defining origin and experience — compel us to be attentive to the calls from Central Europe.

Is it hysteria or some devious form of revenge-seeking that prompts the Poles, the Hungarians, the Czechs and others — not least the Balts — to seek the comforts of an open association with the West? No. I would say it is a well-honed sense of history and a pragmatic effort to take advantage of current circumstances — meaning the lingering but not forever ensured American post-Cold War presence in Europe — to lock in security.

The Russia-first school tends to posit an either-or choice between the separate appeals of Russia and Central Europe. In fact, American diplomacy ought to have the suppleness to blur the choice.

You always can argue tactics, but the Clinton administration has been strategically right in offering something to both parties: NATO membership to those meeting alliance standards, a unique measure of strategic cooperation to the Russians. American-Russian cooperation in Bosnia has provided a suggestive taste of the available mutual benefits.

It is a mockery to expect Central Europeans to emerge from protracted domination by Moscow into a new phase of incipient intimidation. The Cold War was not fought, and won, for that.

The Washington Post.

High Time to Scrap the Nuclear Legacy of the Cold War

By Stephen Sestanovich

This is the second of two articles.

WASHINGTON — Five years after the Soviet Union broke up, the old superpower nuclear standoff remains almost unchanged.

Yes, the number of missiles and warheads is down, and bombers are no longer on 24-hour alert, but otherwise the nature of the relationship is exactly the same. Two huge arsenals still confront each other; the strategy of each side is still to be able to respond overwhelmingly to a first strike, and the only way to carry out the strategy is still to modernize weapons at hand so as to be able to use them if it ever becomes necessary to do so.

Russian generals now routinely say that the role of nuclear weapons in their national security is actually increasing. The Pentagon, meanwhile, discusses how many upgraded submarine-launched missiles it needs.

This is not where we should have ended up.

It may seem to do no harm simply to chip away slowly at these antiquated arsenals, but nuclear inertia does not serve either side's interests.

A Brookings study last year put the annual cost of the U.S. nuclear deterrent at more than $20 billion; the Pentagon says the number is less. Even so, and even if we could save only half of it (and that might be hard — dismantlement costs a lot, too), both we and the Russians could put the money to more effective military use.

A more pressing reason to break our nuclear inertia is the help we would get in dealing with the "loose nukes" problem. If the entire Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons inventory were only a few hundred warheads on each side, at a few controlled locations, the formidable task of tracking weapons across Russian territory would be made much more manageable.

A third reason for avoiding a business-as-usual approach is that if Russian-American relations become more contentious, nuclear weapons are not likely to remain a sleepy area of agreement for long.

Already Russian generals buzz with talk about deploying tactical nuclear weapons once more in neighboring Belarus if NATO expands. And rejecting the START-2 treaty has come to be seen as one of the few ways for Russia to express its frustration at being isolated from NATO's grand design.

There is a final reason, by far the most important, for rejecting the strategic nuclear legacy handed down to us by the Cold War. These weapons may have been a useful form of power in the past, but they are not likely to be so in the future, and we should not want them to be.

If, for example, the United States ends up with the very same nuclear relationship with China that it had with the Soviet Union — growing strategic arsenals poised to destroy each other — we will have to consider this result a failure. But it seems by far the most likely outcome if we do nothing whatever to refashion our nuclear relationship with Russia.

One obviously better alternative is to greatly reduce offensive forces while steadily increasing our reliance on technologies for defending against ballistic missiles.

Over time, with a number of possible rising nuclear powers on their borders, the Russians themselves are likely to see the advantages of such an approach. But if they have a better idea, let's hear it. And if the Clinton administration has one, let's hear that, too.

Instead, the administration has been evasive. When a large group of former generals and admirals from a dozen countries called for abolition of nuclear weapons recently, we should have heard from the Pentagon that zero is the wrong number (these weapons can't be disinvented) but that radically reducing their place in international security is the right goal.

Similarly, the administration has to work much harder at showing Congress that it does not oppose the Republican plan to create a nationwide "shield" against ballistic missiles simply because it prefers to rely for all time on large offensive arsenals. It should show that it is ready to deploy missile defenses where they are most practical today, to protect our friends and forces in regional conflicts.

Because of the contentious new tone of Russian-U.S. relations, the administration is going to find it hard to resolve nuclear issues with Moscow unless it can say more about the place these weapons will have in our own military strategy.

The writer is vice president for Russian and Eurasian affairs at the Carnegie Endowment. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

Scientists Have a Civic Duty to Hear and Address the Public

By Neal Lane

WASHINGTON — Carl Sagan was a brilliant researcher whose insights transformed planetary science, a dedicated and innovative teacher who made students full partners in the process of discovery, a gifted author and novelist and perhaps the most effective "popularizer" of science in history.

Mr. Sagan, who died on Dec. 20 at 62, unlocked the doors to the halls of science. As George Tibbits of The Associated Press noted in his appreciation, he "helped to transport an ivory tower into the living rooms of ordinary people, enthralling millions with his vivid writing and flamboyant television soliloquies."

This was no mean feat, and Mr. Sagan took his share of heat for it from the exalted scientific establishment. Fortunately, he persisted and prevailed. Now it is up to us, particularly scientists and engineers, to finish what he started.

In recent months I have had conversations and debates with many groups of my scientist colleagues in which I suggested both the opportunity and the responsibility for a new role as scientists — a role that could be termed the "civic scientist." In this new capacity, scientists, engineers and other technical professionals would take some time to get away from their computers, out of their labs, off their campuses and into a dialogue with the public.

A predictable response from many of my colleagues has been: We're not very good at talking to the public about something they know little or nothing about. That, in fact, is a primary reason why this needs to be done.

At the National Science Foundation, all of our surveys show that more than two-thirds of the American public believes that science is important. Nonetheless, of those surveyed only one in nine believes that he or she is well informed about science and technology, and only one in four demonstrates any level of science literacy.

These survey results speak volumes and probably tell us more about the scientific community than about the public. This disconnect between people being interested in science yet feeling that their knowledge is seriously lacking should give all scientists and engineers something to ponder.

All scholarly fields, whether in the arts or the sciences, are subject to this sense of separation and detachment. Science may be different in that its case is perhaps more extreme. Yet science and the technology it spawns pervade the very structure of our lives, from our health to our comfort and recreation, from our mobility to our work.

In his recent best-seller "The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark," Mr. Sagan exposed the danger underlying society's current dichotomy:

"We've arranged a global civilization in which most crucial elements profoundly depend on science and technology. We have also arranged things so that almost no one understands science and technology. This is a prescription for disaster. We might get away with it for a while, but sooner or later this mixture of ignorance and power is going to blow up in our faces."

Society today requires a scientifically and technologically literate population. We know that growing numbers of high-value, high-wage jobs rely on technical knowledge. We know that as voters in a representative democracy and as community and family members, we have to make judgments on nuclear power plants, landfill facilities, drinking water purity, medical procedures, workplace safely and the like.

We also know that science literacy must begin at home and in school, where students learn best through inquiry and analysis and not by rote and drill.

Most of all, we must follow Carl Sagan's lead and recognize that the concept of the civic scientist is not a one-way proposition. While it is necessary to increase public understanding of science, it is equally necessary for scientists to increase their understanding of the public. Communicating means listening as much as speaking.

The writer, director of the U.S. National Science Foundation, contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

But Our 'Experts' Tend to Bicker

By Richard Harwood

WASHINGTON — A meteorite labeled Allen Hills 84001, one of a dozen collected on the ice sheet of Antarctica, was analyzed by a group of scientists employed by the U.S. National Aeronautic and Space Administration. They reported last August that it provided "compelling" evidence of primitive life on early Mars.

The report was published in the journal Science, was widely publicized and has led to new enthusiasm for missions to that cold planet to search for evidence of life.

But The New York Times subsequently reported that "independent studies conducted since the meteorite announcement ... have shown that the supposed evidence for Martian life can be explained away in nonbiological terms." What had been detected in the potato-sized rock "could well be neither animal nor vegetable, but strictly mineral."

Whom are we to believe, the NASA group or the dissenters?

We encounter these "expert" conflicts constantly. Do 70,000 veterans of the Gulf War suffer poor health because of exposure to nerve gas in the desert? Did exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange in Vietnam do harm to thousands of American soldiers? Did toxic waste at Love Canal cause birth defects and other health problems? Does the global population explosion condemn millions to starvation?

Countless important questions of this kind are unsettled because of disagreements among "experts."

"Every complicated society," Walter Lippmann wrote many years ago, "has sought the assistance of special men, of augurs, priests and elders." In the modern era, "experts" have come to fill that role.

"The statesman, the executive, the party leader, the head of a voluntary association," Lippmann noted, "found that he had to discuss two dozen different subjects in the course of the day, someone had to coach him. He began to clamor for memorandums ... He demanded summaries ... He found that he didn't know one machine from another. He hired engineers to pick them, and tell him how much they cost and what they could do."

Today our industrial, commercial and financial structures rest on the inventiveness and talent of "experts." Medicine, law, universities and the new information industry have the same foundations. And in this age of nuclear weapons, our very lives are, to a great extent, in their hands.

That may even be true of the environmental scientists and other experts concerned with the degradation and potential destruction of life-supporting means on our fragile planet.

The problem is that as vast numbers of "experts" were trained in the universities and credentialed by peers and government agencies, we discovered belatedly that they frequently disagreed about the most fundamental issues.

How, for example, during the Cold War should America deploy nuclear weapons so as to ensure its security and minimize the risk of conflict? There is disagreement today over the seriousness of global warming.

We have learned, in short, that the "scientific method" does not guarantee the production of identical or even similar results at any given time, and that brilliant hypotheses are sometimes as easily discredited as they are validated.

In science as in other fields, the physicist Lawrence Cranburg has written, "there are always hidden facts, and truths are elusive in every domain of human inquiry."

Thomas McCarty, a law professor at the University of Texas, has put it more harshly in connection with breast implant litigation: "You can get a panel of experts, that will reach any result you want — it's just a question of stacking it one way or the other."

The dilemma for journalists is obvious. We rely heavily on "experts" for much of what we write about society and the state of the world. How do we decide which "expert" opinion to pass on to the public? We can hedge by giving "both sides" of an argument, leaving things unsettled. But our tendency is to follow the man-bites-dog principle: News is the unexpected.

The hypothesis that apples cause cancer or that there is life on Mars is far more interesting than the reverse. The possibility that troops were harmed by nerve gas is not merely interesting but, if true, relevant to a great many people.

Expertise has not been the religion of journalists in the past, but there are those who think we should convert. That is a useful idea so long as we realize the limitations.

A wise man once said that experts should always be on tap but never on top. Journalists should be as skeptical, recognizing that "expert" opinion is not necessarily "truth" and often has a short shelf life.

The Washington Post.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1896: Historic Year

PARIS — The year 1896 will go down to History as one of the most eventful of the century, and one of war in every continent. The old order is changing, leading to disintegration and the creation of new groupings of nations. In South Africa, the Dutch have rebelled after the action of Rhodesia's ex-administrator. In America, the extension of the Monroe doctrine in the Venezuelan and Cuban questions is regarded by European Powers as dangerous to their rights. The Franco-Russian alliance divided Europe into two war camps, while the eternal *question d'Orient* was thrown to it as a bone of contention.

1921: Economic Plan

PARIS — The British plan for the economic reorganisation of Europe was accepted at the meeting of representative industrialists and statesmen of the four Allied countries — Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium. The plan promotes, under government auspices, a vast international consortium of the private commercial, financial and industrial interests of each country for making an exchange of commodities possible between producing and impoverished consuming countries.

1946: Atomic Accord

LAKE SUCCESS — The Atomic Energy Commission overrode Russian objections and approved the U.S. program for international control of atomic energy. The approved version bans the use of the veto to block the punishment of violator nations. Under the plan, the United Nations would establish an atomic energy authority to enforce the treaty by sending agents throughout the world to hunt down illicit atomic activities.

OPINION/LETTERS

Startling New Police Bill Meets Yawns in Britain

By Anthony Lewis

LONDON — For all their democratic similarities, the political societies of Britain and the United States differ in a profound respect. It is a difference that goes back to the American Revolution.

Americans fear the power of the state. The framers of the constitution wrote in devices to check power, divide it, defend individuals against it. And the instinctive fear of a centralized state remains as strong today.

No such instinct is detectable in Britain. There is, rather, what must seem to Americans an extraordinary public indifference to encroachments of state power on individual rights.

A current example, a startling one, is the Police Bill proposed by the Conservative government and now making its way through Parliament. It would give the police broad power to enter anyone's home or office without a warrant, rummage through papers and plant bugs. They could do so with no restraint except the goodwill of the chief constable in each police district, who would be the *authorizing* power. The bill would allow such warrantless searches and electronic surveillance to deal with any "serious" crime. Any crime punishable by a sentence of three years or more would qualify as "serious."

Not only a suspected criminal's home or office would be vulnerable to those new powers. The police could search and bug anywhere — including the offices of the target's lawyer. The privacy of legal consultations, hitherto regarded as sacrosanct in Britain and other European countries as it is under American constitutional law, could be breached at will.

All this is a sharp break with what the British call their unwritten constitution: concepts of freedom that have tradition behind them though they are not enforceable as law. The maxim that "a man's home is his castle" arose in the English courts.

In 1763 William Pitt the Elder said: "The poorest man may in his cottage bid defiance to all the force of the Crown. It may be frail, its roof may shake, the rain may enter, but the king of England cannot enter; all his force dares not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement."

When the bill was debated last month in the House of Lords, an amendment was offered to require a judicial warrant for searches and surveillance. The government defeated the amendment, opposing it on the puzzling ground that it would threaten "the traditional impartiality of judges, placing them too firmly in the law enforcement camp." Judges have been issuing warrants here and in other countries for centuries without any such result.

A highly regarded judge, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, supported the unsuccessful amendment in the debate. He noted that individuals would have no remedy if the police abused their new powers.

The bill was proposed by the home secretary, Michael Howard, who has been much criticized for disregarding civil liberties.

Surprisingly, the Labour opposition supported him on this bill. Jack Straw, Labour's shadow home secretary, said there would be "greater accountability" if a chief constable, rather than a judge, had the duty "to ensure compliance with the law." Hugo Young, a columnist in The Guardian, scorned the notion that a police official was "the rightful custodian" of individuals' privacy. He said Mr. Straw had "plumbed the depths of intellectual chicanery."

It seems especially odd that the leader of the Labour Party, Tony Blair, would let it take such an illiberal stance. He is a lawyer, and he has worked with great success to give Labour a more modern image. But the explanation is obvious. There will be an election here in 1997, and Mr. Blair does not want to look soft on crime. He is reminiscent of the Bill Clinton who allowed much illiberal legislation to become law despite civil liberties objections before the U.S. election.

Fifty years ago Justice Hugo L. Black replied to an argument that the U.S. Supreme Court should follow English practice in a particular matter. Those who wrote the American constitution, he said, wanted Americans to have far greater protection against official abuse than the English had ever had. The example of the Police Bill makes his point.

The New York Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sudeten Claims

Regarding "50 Years On, Expulsion Rankles for Sudeten Germans" (Dec. 9):

Yes, the Sudeten Germans were treated harshly for a brief time after World War II, when most of them were expelled from Czechoslovakia. Compared with what the Germans did to the Czechs, however, these acts of revenge were relatively modest.

This dispute is not about reconciliation; it is about the restitution of property seized by the then non-Communist Czech state from expelled Germans. The arguments about "apology" are just platitudes.

To generalize, the expelled Germans became rich in West Germany while the Czechs that remained became poor under the Communists. If the Czech Republic is to recover from 40 years of communism, it will need all the capital it has.

HARVEY M. SCHUSTER.
Prague.

Gifts to Colleges

The article on the consequences of foreign gifts to universities (*"Wanted: Gifts to Colleges, With Few Questions Asked," Dec. 10*) was an informative portrayal of the major issues at stake in this matter. However, it failed to mention the extensive involvement of Arab countries in this area.

In 1977, Georgetown University first accepted, then returned, a $750,000 pledge from the government of Libya that was to be earmarked for the school's center on the Middle East. As recently as 1994, the Saudi Arabian government donated $20 million to the University of Arkansas to start a Middle Eastern studies program.

In 1984, the Anti-Defamation League hailed the signing of legislation that required institutions of higher education to disclose gifts over $100,000 from foreign sources. Today, the ADL is just as concerned about the possibility that donations from foreign interests may bring undue influence over a university's academic freedom and integrity.

ABRAHAM H. FOXMAN.
New York.

The writer is national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Just Terrorists

The leftist fanatics who have taken hostages in Lima should not be called "rebels" or "guerrillas." They are terrorists, plain and simple.

JORGE PAYET.
Lima.

Correction

Due to an editing error in "To Help His Party, Nation and Career, Gingrich Must Resign as Speaker" (*Opinion, Dec. 27*) by William Safire, the Republican leader who urged Richard Nixon to quit the Eisenhower ticket in 1952 was incorrectly identified. He was Thomas E. Dewey.

Faith and Public Office: Keeping Duties Apart

By Jimmy Carter

ATLANTA — I grew up in a conservative Baptist family in which we honored some basic premises that had defined Baptists for more than three and a half centuries.

One of the most fundamental was the separation of church and state, based on Jesus's admonition to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

We considered it proper for citizens to influence public policy

MEANWHILE

but not for a religious group to attempt to control the processes of a democratic government or for public officials to interfere in religious affairs.

During the last two decades, these principles have been challenged, often successfully, by Christian fundamentalists. Under the banner of the Christian Coalition, they have merged with the conservative wing of the Republican Party, becoming an active force in politics and enjoying a series of election successes.

They had their first serious setback this year when Bill Clinton was re-elected, and "only" 62 percent of born-again Christians voted against him. In a New York Times interview, Pat Robertson, the Christian Coalition's president, condemned Republican campaign leaders as "incompetent" and vowed to play a more active role in upcoming elections.

As a presidential candidate in 1976, I tried to avoid any religious subject, but when questioned one April night at the home of a North Carolina supporter, I said I was a "born-again Christian." From then until the end of the campaign, reporters made a big deal of what to me seemed natural, making clear to me that injecting religion into politics was a mistake.

This and other incidents made me extra careful to separate my official status as president from the private worship habits of my family. I never permitted religious services to be held in the White House. We worshiped at the nearest Baptist church when we were in Washington, and at Camp David the chaplain from a nearby army base conducted private services for us and a few navy families stationed there.

Yet I prayed more during those four years than at any other time, primarily for patience, courage and the wisdom to make good decisions. I also prayed for peace.

Since publication of my new book, "Living Faith," I have been asked whether my Christian beliefs ever differed from my duties as president. There were a few such conflicts but I always honored my oath to "preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States."

For instance, I have never believed that Jesus Christ would agree with Supreme Court decisions approving abortion or the death penalty, but I honored such rulings to the best of my ability, at the same time attempting to minimize what I considered to be their adverse impacts.

Jesus proclaimed that his ministry was to "bring good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind and to release the oppressed."

But I believe that it is usually government officeholders and not religious leaders who are in the forefront of this struggle to alleviate suffering, provide homes for the homeless, eliminate the stigma of poverty or racial discrimination, preserve peace and rehabilitate prisoners.

There is little doubt that many church members are more self-satisfied, committed to the status quo and exclusive of dissimilar people than most political officeholders are, because officeholders face intense competition from challengers in dealing successfully with human problems.

There is a subtle but important difference between the highest commitments of religious faith and public office. Most great religions espouse the golden rule, based on *agape* — love or self-sacrifice, for the benefit of others. A government's ultimate goals are to preserve security and to ensure justice: to treat people fairly, to guarantee their rights, to alleviate suffering and to try to resolve disputes peacefully.

Both are worthy ideas, but neither is easy to reach.

Jimmy Carter, chairman of The Carter Center at Emory University, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

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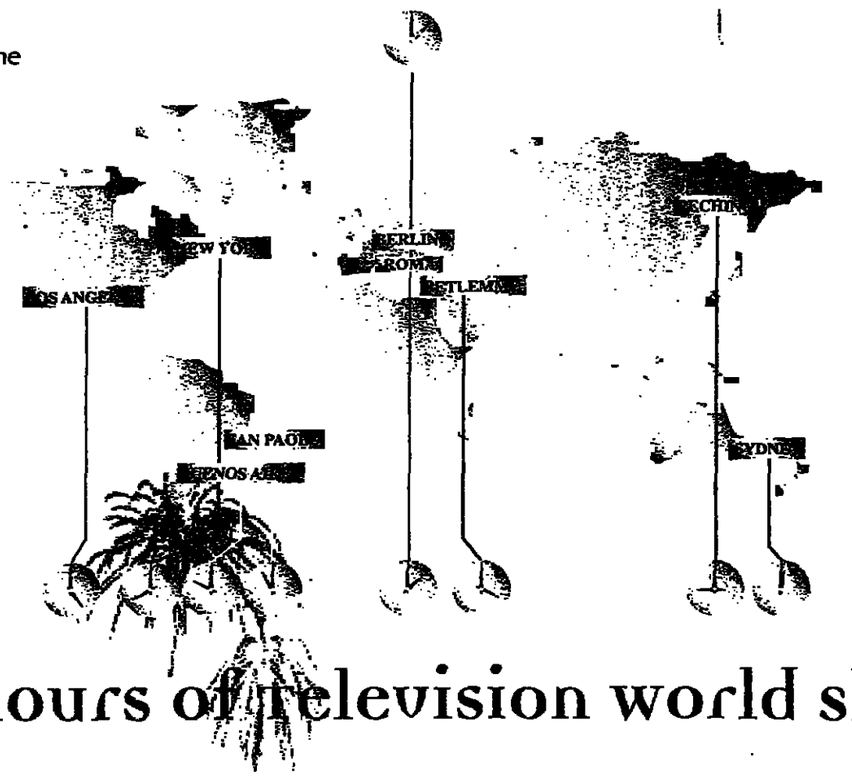

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Style

The Popcorn Premise: When Culture Becomes Trendiness

By Edward Rothstein
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — This week, with the coming of the New Year, there may be a spirit of rebirth at large, a sense of something new about to begin. But if so, the feeling will be all too familiar. The displacement of the old and the celebration of the new has become a year-round habit. In fact, we are always resetting our clocks, recalibrating our sense of newness, ringing out and ringing in at ever faster rates. We have created a culture founded almost entirely on trends.

In newsrooms, boardrooms and classrooms, we "Braille the culture," as one professional trend spotter, Faith Popcorn has famously put it. We run our fingertips along trend-bumps as they speed past. Sales of snoring remedies are up. Sales of exotic fruit drinks are down. Nineteenth-century novels are big on screen (last year, Jane Austen: this year, Henry James). Television sitcoms celebrate chattering friendships ("Seinfeld," "Friends" and various imitators). Things are moving so fast that some fashion gurus declared the "Evita" look dead even before the Madonna film opened.

We give everything a name — decades, styles, movements generations — in attention-getting capital letters. The Me Decade was named by Tom Wolfe in 1976, after it was more than half over. The '80s were slurred as the Decade of Greed. The Beats begat the Baby Boomers who begat the Punks who now await newly named successors.

In advanced intellectual life, trend-spotting is becoming just as frenetic, with ideas and arguments taking on many of the characteristics of fashion. Structuralism was superseded by Semiology, which joined forces with Lacanianism, which was displaced by Deconstruction, which was superseded by Cultural Studies. Now everything is engulfed by Po-Mo — post-modernism — which sometimes seems to be declaring that all trends are created equal.

Nowhere is the swirl more frenzied than in pop culture, which hasn't even got time for names or seasons. A generation in pop-culture terms seems to measure about two years, and a trend can come and go seemingly in a matter of weeks. Funk, hip-hop, house music and gangsta rap jostle for attention, with their variations competing for new revised monikers. In television, the '50s and '60s are joined by the '70s and '80s as trends were created out of recycled nostalgia. It seems as if we are always racing to catch up with these changes in taste and style, learning the new names and constantly seeking to find newer ones. We want to ride the crest of these waves; we hope we never float helplessly while the action is elsewhere. We are trend addicts, seeking to be on top, ahead, beyond or on the brink. In fact, the trendiest trend in culture right now is trend-spotting.

Culture is almost haphazardly strewn about us, on screens, billboards, in concert halls and art galleries, filtered through millions of minds, executed with thousands of techniques. It's there in advertising and in serious music, in the latest Hollywood blockbuster and in the dumbest television sitcom, in university classrooms and in political rallies.

But culture is increasingly difficult to decipher, so we seek the supposed essences in the midst of chaos, trends that give a semblance of order and connection in a world we are partly constructing, partly being swept away in. There is an element of anxiety in this quest, but somewhere in this mess — and much of it is a mess — there seems to be a message, or at least a mirror, offering some explanation of ourselves we cannot find elsewhere.

And if we, the consumers, seek trends, how much keener are the producers of our entertainment, the marketers who bet millions of dollars on whether a particular star is "hot" or a particular book will "take off." There is money to be made out of our obsessions.

Faith Popcorn, for example, whose invented name promises the snap and crackle of instant satisfaction along with the reliability and confidence of homespun religion, is a professional trend reader. Among her credentials, she notes that she correctly predicted the demise of wine coolers and the rise of gourmet coffees and that major corporations like American Express and Pepsico have paid her to reveal trends still hidden to their competitors.

THE problem is that this restless search for trends can never come up with the kinds of answers we hope to find. If we say buddy movies are in one season, or action thrillers the next, this is not a matter of progress, bringing us greater understanding: it is just a change in preferences. Every trend is just additional evidence of change rather than another step toward stability.

This was not always the case. Such extreme quests for trends were once unnecessary partly because of something now quaintly known as tradition. Tradition was once an imposing, if porous and amorphous, presence, a sense of past achievement that provided the context within which new artworks were created. The tradition — or traditions — invoked in an artwork partly provided its premises, partly its style, partly even its subject matter.

Listeners could comprehend Beethoven because they had come to know the music of Haydn, Mozart and lesser talents who had similar ideas about musical structure and drama. French Impressionism achieved its impact partly by rejecting a tradition of academic painting.

The early development of opera, for example, was related to Renaissance conceptions of Greek drama and to the notion that a link existed between the meanings of words and their sounds.

In fact, a developing academic discipline known as "cultural studies" is partly a study of trends and their meanings. Few distinctions are made between a Braille-like bump in popular culture or an imposing achievement in a highly developed tradition; for some scholars, both contain equally important information.

The appeal of shopping centers is as crucial as the image of the body in Western art, the nature of the sports fan as central as the education of a scientist.

There is something amiss in these efforts to treat a tradition with no more seriousness than the latest passing fashion. When the early-19th-century German philosopher Hegel used the word "Zeitgeist," he was trying to outline the course of world history as a series of systematic transformations in human consciousness.

At any given time any Zeit — types of government, the kinds of art being created, aspects of religious belief — would all be reflections of something Hegel called the Spirit, the Geist.

Each stage along history's way was seen as an embodiment of Spirit, containing tensions and contradictions that would be resolved in a succeeding era that would in turn fall prey to tensions that would give birth to yet another age.

The shared experience of fashion, television shows, hit movies and best sellers provide immediate bonds in a world without traditional ones. But those are fragile bonds, having little authority or significance. Instead of Eliot's "presence" of the past, we are left with the lingering ache of absence. Every day becomes a new year, every tradition little more than a trend.

Ashtrays Going Way of Cuspidor

By Trip Gabriel
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Where are they now, the ashtrays of yesteryear? Glass or porcelain, copper or melamine, $1.49 from Woolworth's or $410 from Hermes, their fading images linger in the memories of hosts and hostesses.

Once they adorned linen-topped dining tables and gleaming mahogany board rooms. There were the heavy squares of amber glass with sluiceways cut deeply into the four corners. Or the tin receptacles set cunningly into bean-bag bases. Or the oblongs and moons of crystal, as much a part of a bride's registry as the silver porringer nut dish.

Gone now, all gone — banished in an increasingly smoke-free society.

Ashtrays, once commonplace, have entered a kind of twilight realm where they seem on the verge of becoming artifacts, as obsolete as 19th-century snuff bottles.

"It seems they are becoming relics of the 20th century and may not live on into the 21st," said Deborah Shinn, a curator of applied arts at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York.

That is not to say that smoking itself is on the verge of extinction. Despite a gradual decrease in the number of Americans who smoke — from 40 percent of the adult population in the early 1960s to about 25 percent today — 45 million people still puff away.

But smoking has become increasingly furtive, no longer welcome or acceptable in public, and the ashtray has all but disappeared as a visible accessory of modern life. Smoking is banned from most offices, restaurants and stores. In private homes, the smoker is often asked to step outside, where he or she huddles in driving sleet, then miserably grinds out the butt in the garden. No ashtray needed. The same scene is repeated in front of office buildings, where butts are flicked onto sidewalks.

In homes, ashtrays, if they are kept at all, are hidden away in drawers and kitchen cabinets. Detroit dropped them as standard equipment in some car models two years ago, the first time since the Model T. Many stores, including the houseware chains Crate and Barrel and Pottery Barn, no longer sell them.

Crate and Barrel, with 68 stores nationwide, stopped carrying ashtrays several years ago when Barbara Turf, then the head of merchandising and today the company's president, made the decision on principle.

"It was proven that smoking was detrimental to your health, and she didn't feel good about having ashtrays," said Bette Kahn, a company spokeswoman. "Don't ask me why we have martini glasses. That's another story."

Pottery Barn, which has more than 70 stores, was simply responding to lack of demand, said W. Howard Lester, chief executive of Williams-Sonoma, the parent company.

Oriet Mahammed/The New York Times

Basketball coach Pat Riley sporting Armani, and the rock group the Fugees warbling at Armani's party.

Designer-Celebrity Symbiosis

By Roger D. Friedman
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — "Thanks for giving a bunch of kids from the ghetto some new suits," a member of the Fugees said as they ended their performance at Giorgio Armani's extravaganza birthday party last fall.

It turned out the Fugees had received "boxes and boxes and boxes" of new Armani clothing, a record-company official said. The group also received a fee for playing at the designer's party.

When the actresses Mira Sorvino and Ashley Judd leaped onto the stage to declare their love for Armani, they weren't just having an endorphin overload. Armani has been filling their closets for some time, said Wilfredo Rosado, the fashion director for the designer.

Designers are increasingly using implicit endorsements — getting famous people to wear their clothing — as a way to increase their sales. Fashion designers in particular have taken the concept to new levels this fall, according to fashion insiders and officials at design houses.

Elton John was recently seen in photographs with Gianni Versace in a Vanity Fair layout featuring the designer's new town house.

Donna Karan has lined up Demi Moore for photo opportunities as well as advertisements.

Not joining the parade is Prada. The designer will only give 30 percent discounts to its models and does not encourage free-for-all shopping sprees even for such regular customers as the actress Uma Thurman.

"They'll loan you a dress for the Oscars," an executive at Rogers & Cohen public relations that works with designers said, "but that's about it."

Here are a few examples of who got what this fall:

Mira Sorvino: Armani wasn't enough for her. She did appearances for Versace, too, and added to her collection.

Pat Riley: The head coach of the Miami Heat basketball team wouldn't be caught in anything but Armani.

Eric Clapton: In addition to the singer's regular performance fee of $100,000 for corporate performances, he received clothes from Armani for singing at the birthday bash.

BOOKS

THE FATE OF A GESTURE
Jackson Pollock and Postwar American Art

By Carter Ratcliff. Illustrated. 352 pages. $35. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

TO the public, Jackson Pollock was the avant-garde's cowboy existentialist, the brawling action painter whose famous drip paintings had been immortalized in Life magazine and whose death in an auto accident at age 44 forever sealed his fame. To his colleague and rival Willem de Kooning, he was the American who "broke the ice": the artist who opened the floodgates of innovation that then swept the New York art world in the 1940s and '50s. Pollock was typically more taciturn — and grandiose — when it came to describing himself: "I am nature," he declared.

In deciding to tackle the question of Pollock's achievement and legacy in "The Fate of a Gesture," the art critic Carter Ratcliff has taken on a huge subject, a subject that turns out to be unwieldy for him. Pollock's influence, after all, is both breathtakingly wide and strangely amorphous.

Artists as diverse as Helen Frankenthaler and Walter De Maria, Claes Oldenburg and Richard Serra can claim him as an ancestor: Color Field painters, Minimalists, environmental sculptors and even performance artists can all cite him as an inspiration.

It is Ratcliff's contention that Pollock's best work evoked a feeling of "limitless possibility," a "pictorial equivalent to the American infinite that spreads through Walt Whitman's 'Leaves of Grass,'" and that this sense of the infinite can be traced through the work of many American artists after him. This is not a terribly new idea; Robert Hughes astutely made the Whitman analogy some two decades ago. But it initially seems like a useful prism through which to examine Pollock's convoluted legacy.

Describing the grandiosity that animates the paintings of Pollock and his friend Clyfford Still, Ratcliff writes: "It is an idea of losing one's tiresome, ordinary self in the unbounded promise of the New World; liberated from history, one is reborn with primordial strength and integrity."

It is an expansive impulse with roots in the American landscape tradition, and an impulse, Ratcliff suggests, that would be picked up, in Pollock's wake, by artists as varied as Michael Heizer (who drew tracks in the Nevada desert with a motorcycle) and Sol LeWitt (who stacked groups of cubes in different combinations, a process that in itself implied a sense of the infinite).

In the course of this book, Ratcliff tries to formulate several dialectics, contrasting Pollock's expansiveness with Rothko's peaceful sense of containment, and Pollock's fiery introspection with the Pop artists' cool-eyed observation of the outer world. These contrasts are not new either; nor are they fleshed out in any new or meaningful way. "The Fate of a Gesture" quickly devolves into a series of chapters that read like individual essays, cobbled together thematically in only the most perfunctory way.

Once again, we are treated to an overview of Pollock's short, intense life: his childhood in the West, his stabs at representational drawing, his struggles to make ends meet, his meeting with Lee Krasner, his drunken high jinks, his embrace of the drip technique, his accelerating fame.

And what of the thesis advanced in the controversial 1990 biography of Pollock by Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith that Pollock's drip technique was associated with his childhood memories of watching his father urinate on a stone? Instead of putting this highly reductive argument into some sort of perspective, Ratcliff simply writes that "we should expand it until intimations of all the body's processes appear in Pollock's stained, smeared, encrusted canvases."

Elsewhere in the book, Ratcliff wildly inflates Andy Warhol's achievement, arguing that he "was as authentic an artist as Jackson Pollock" and that his work "unfurled an image of America as boundless as Pollock's." Such assessments do a serious injustice to Pollock, and they ultimately undermine the more compelling arguments in this messy and prosaic book.

Michiko Kakutani is on the staff of The New York Times.

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

ANATOLI Karpov won the European Quickplay Championship in Cap d'Agde, France, by defeating the Dutch grandmaster Loek Van Wely in the final, a mini-match.

Using the Bobby Fischer clock in 30-minute games with a 20-second bonus for each move, Karpov drew two games then won the two tie-break games of 3 minutes with a 2-second bonus for each move.

Here is blitz Game 1.

The Torre Attack. 3 Bg5, merely develops the white queen bishop outside of the main body of white pawns. Karpov probably chose it because in Game 1 of their series, he used the more intense 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 O-O 5 O-O d6 6 c4 Nbd7 7 Nc3 e5 and discovered that Van Wely was comfortably up on it.

Placing the pawns with 4 e3 and 5 c3 gives maximum protection to the d4 pawn and thus virtually eliminates pressure on the center from the fianchettoed black king bishop.

Karpov's 10 Na3!, was an improvement over the more common 10 Nbd2. The positional point was to bring in the motif of pressure, against the queenside with a later Nfd2, Ndc4 and Nb5.

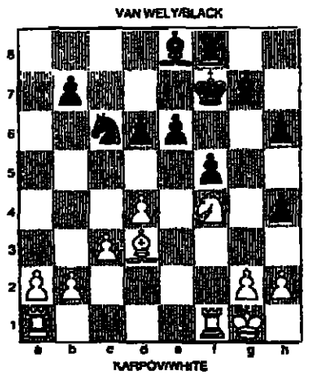
In Novgorod, 1995, Garry Kasparov reached a similar situation as Black against Artur Yusupov. But instead of developing with 10...Nc6, he played 10...Nbd7, which is more appropriate to keeping the b6 pawn guarded.

In place of 12...cd 13 ed Nd5, putting the f6 knight into a somewhat insecure location, 12...Nd7 would have been more flexible.

On 14 Nb5, Van Wely should have played 14...Rfc8 and if 15 Bf3, then 15...g5 16 Bg3 Na7. His alternative, 14...f5?!, was too ambitious and after 15 f4, his 15...Nf4? was a fatal miscalculation. After 16 Rf4 g5 17 Rff1 gh 18 Nc7, Van Wely had to part with a rook for Karpov's knight.

On 25...Kf7, Karpov shattered the black position with 26 d5! ed 27 Bf5 d4 28 Ne6 dc 29 Nf8 Kf8 30 Bg6 Ke7 31 Be8 cb. It is not clear why Van Wely played 31...cb. Either he was so short of time that he did not realize he was losing even more material, or Karpov was so short of time that Van Wely was trying to get him to overstep. In any case, it did not work and, with Karpov ready to run his a pawn forward and compel the gain of the last black piece for it, Van Wely gave up at Move 43.

VAN WELY/BLACK



KARPOV/WHITE

Position after 25 . . . Kf7

TORRE ATTACK

White Karpov	Black V. Wely	White Karpov	Black V. Wely
1 d4	Nf6	22 Nc4	Rf8
2 Nf3	g6	23 Nb6	Be8
3 Bg5	Bg7	24 Nd5	e6
4 e3	0-0	25 Nf4	Kf7
5 c3	d6	26 d5	ed
6 Be2	c5	27 Bf5	d4
7 0-0	Qb6	28 Ne6	dc
8 Qb3	Be6	29 Nf8	Kf8
9 Qb6	ab	30 Bg6	Ke7
10 Na3	Nc6	31 Be8	cb
11 Nd2	b6	32 Rae1	Ne5
12 Bh4	ed	33 Bg6	Bf6
13 ed	Nd5	34 Bb1	d5
14 Nb5	f5	35 Rf2	b5
15 f4	Nf4	36 Rb2	Kd6
16 Rf4	g5	37 Rb5	Nc4
17 Rff1	gh	38 Rf1	Bd4
18 Nc7	Bd7	39 Kh1	Ne3
19 Bc4	Kh7	40 Rc1	Ng4
20 Na8	Ra8	41 Rf1	Nf2
21 Bd3	Kg6	42 Rf2	Bf2
		43 a4	Resigns

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Slam-dunks
5 Stiller and —
10 Prefix with business
14 Like Nash's lama
15 Waters of song
16 Amorphous mass
17 1935 Cole Porter song
20 Pundit
21 Ollo
22 Disney's "— and the Detectives"
25 Vietnam's Ngo — Diem
26 No longer hold up
29 F. Scott Fitzgerald had one: Abbr.
31 New York's — Island
35 Swellhead's problem
36 Number of mousquetaires
38 Invited
39 Unofficial Australian "anthem"
43 Anon's partner
44 — — objection (go along)
45 Nurse's bag
46 Lax
48 Garden tool
50 Molly Bloom's last word in "Ulysses"
51 Pot builder
53 Torture chamber item
55 Well-to-do
59 Gut-wrenching feeling
63 1939 Andrews Sisters hit
66 — — ideal (perfect model)
67 "Camelot" tunesmith
68 Manner Ericson
69 Memo abbr.
70 Winter hazard
71 Advanced

DOWN
1 Steven of Apple computers
2 Once more
3 Prefix with phone
4 Ooze
5 Encountered
6 Biblical verb ending
7 "Beg your pardon"
8 Bridge action
9 One of the Carringtons, on "Dynasty"
10 Largest of the United Arab Emirates
11 Fluent
12 Author Jaffe
13 " — — to differ!"
18 Pacific Fleet admiral of W.W. II
19 Lady's partner
23 Letters from Calvary
24 Den fathers
25 Drain
27 Century plant
28 Automaton
30 Go-getter
32 Loquacious
33 Jockey Arcaro
34 — — foot oil
37 Daub
40 Demonstration test
41 Singer Paul
42 Cobbler's tip
47 Slight
48 Base runner's stat
52 Register
54 Small hill
56 "Dancing Queen" pop group
58 Podiatrists' concerns
57 Potential Guinness Book entry
58 Shade giver
60 Open delight
61 Scrape, as the knee
62 Electee of 1908
64 Female with a wool coat
65 Tennis call

Puzzle by Arthur S. Verdesca

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of Dec. 30

L	A	T	H	E		A	R	O	M	A		B	A	S
A	R	I	E	L		D	O	R	A	L		R	N	A
D	R	O	P	T	H	E	B	A	L	L		E	A	T
			R	O	L	E			S	W	A	M	I	
A	P	P	E	A	S	E		R	E	T	A	K	E	N
M	E	A	N	I	E		H	O	B	A	R	T		
O	R	S	O	N		T	A	T	A	R		H	B	O
R	O	S	S		B	A	R	O	N		B	E	A	N
E	N	T		G	A	P	E	R		B	R	I	C	E
		H	A	R	L	E	M		B	E	A	C	O	N
A	T	E	L	I	E	R		B	A	R	T	E	N	D
L	O	B	E	S			B	A	T	S				
E	M	U		T	A	K	E	T	H	E	C	A	K	E
R	E	C		L	I	E	T	O		R	U	N	A	T
T	S	K		E	D	G	A	R		K	E	N	Y	A

Harry's
Est. 1911, Paris
"Sank Roo Doe Noo"
A Space for Thought.

TV Piracy Sparks New Border War

Canada and Mexico Take Opposite Paths

By Anthony DePalma
New York Times Service

TORONTO — Television programs beamed from space to the United States are spilling into home satellite dishes in Canada and Mexico, provoking a modern-day border conflict.

In the past few years, hundreds of thousands of otherwise law-abiding Canadians and Mexicans have installed satellite dishes and subscribed to pirated services that bring in American programs, from "Seinfeld" to "The Simpsons."

The legality of these signals has been in doubt, and both countries have tried to use regulations to keep them out. Last month, however, Mexico threw in the towel.

Regulators signed an agreement that allows services from the United States to come openly into Mexico and vice versa, with only limited restrictions to keep out obscenity and require some public-interest broadcasting.

But on the northern border, Canada and the United States are far from signing any agreement. Washington wants the same type of unfettered access for satellite signals as for auto parts and other free-trade products. For cultural reasons, Ottawa insists that at least half the programming on a satellite service be Canadian, even though Canada so far has been unable to offer its own satellite service.

So, for now, there are no legal satellite services in Canada, either imported or domestic. But some 200,000 Canadians have already bought dishes and are paying for programming from the United States that the government warns is illegal.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have raided dozens of electronics stores across Canada, seizing dishes and pressing charges against owners. It is not clear if they were after "gray-market" suppliers or descrambling chips that are clearly illegal.

These border wars have implications far beyond Canada and Mexico.

In many parts of the world governments have had to recognize that technology is leapfrogging ahead of their ability to regulate services that were not even imagined when current laws were written.

"Regulations will catch up with technology in the fullness of time," said David Farber, a professor of telecommunications at the University of Pennsylvania, "but we will go through a lot of pain in the process."

The great indiscriminate range of satellite transmissions is causing friction in culturally defensive places like Singapore and the Middle East. In many parts of the world, countries are being forced to decide between a pragmatic response like that of Mexico, which tries to get a piece of the market for itself, and an insistent Canada willing to forgo market share for some degree of cultural protection.

Reed Hundt, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, said he recognized that satellite broadcasts were almost always indifferent to national borders, which is why the United States considered the agreement with Mexico "a sign and symbol of good faith" that should help set the course of the satellite television industry.

The agreement with Mexico is simple enough in concept. The Mexican government essentially declared that because it could not prevent American satellite signals from entering Mexican space, it wanted to make sure Mexican broadcasters enjoyed full access to the lucrative Spanish-speaking market in the United States.

The issue of the content of satellite broadcasts complicated negotiations because of Mexico's long-standing suspicions of the United States. But eventually, Washington and Mexico City agreed upon a broad and flexible clause to keep content restrictions to "a modicum," a word expressing moderation in Spanish and English.

In addition to restrictions on transmitting pornography on either side of the border, the United States expects Mexican broadcasters to reserve 7 percent of air time for public interest broadcasting, perhaps in English, Mr. Hundt said. The Mexican standard, not yet defined, should be roughly equal, and require some programs in Spanish.

Two companies are already eager to exploit the agreement. The first, Galaxy Latin America, is a consortium of Hughes Communications Inc., a

See SATELLITE, Page 13

A Clear Signal ...
While the United States and Canada sort out their differences, more than 20,000 Canadian consumers each month join those already taking advantage of legal loopholes to purchase American satellite TV programming, which reaches over 90 percent of Canada's residents.

... Leads to a Gray Market
Here's how Canadians sign up for gray market service:

1 They find dealers, in the Yellow Pages, newspaper ads or by asking a friend who boasts about all the American football he watches.

2 They buy a satellite dish from a retailer who is unconcerned with the possibility that such a sale is illegal. (The cost is about $727.)

3 The dealer designs a custom package for $20 to $150 a month and assigns the customer a billing address in Buffalo or another U.S. border city.

4 The TV owner pays a monthly fee to the dealer, who pays the U.S. satellite TV provider on his behalf.

The New York Times

World Markets Rally As U.S. Stocks Slide

But '97 Outlook Remains Upbeat

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

World stock markets climbed Monday, many of them buoyed into record territory, but U.S. stocks ended mixed, driven lower after early gains by two series of computer-guided "sell" orders in the final half-hour of trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished at 6,549.37 points, down 11.54, its first decline in two weeks.

Advancing issues led decliners by a 14-to-10 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange, where trading volume was light.

Despite the late slide, investors said the outlook for next year called for both the U.S. economy and corporate earnings to keep growing. Cash is also surging into stock mutual funds, analysts said.

"A lot of people are starting to look to more of the same in 1997: benign inflation and controlled growth," said Tracy Chester, a money manager at Zurich Kemper Investments in Chicago, which oversees assets of $45 billion. "Unless you're calling for a recession, or some sort of blow-off on inflation, which we're not, it's hard to make a negative case for the stock market."

European stocks followed Wall Street's early lead, with several bourses posting record gains Monday.

In Frankfurt, German stocks celebrated a record 1996, with the DAX-30 share index closed the last trading session of the year at 2,888.69 points, 28 percent above its level at the end of 1995.

Traders said the German market got a lift from low interest rates and the successful flotation of Deutsche Telekom AG, Europe's biggest-ever initial public offering, in November.

In London, shares closed firmly higher, with gains on Wall Street and a sharp rise on the futures market leading the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100 share index to an all-time peak of 4,115.7 points, up 24.7.

Swiss stock indexes rose to a record as drugmakers Novartis AG and Roche Holding AG advanced, lifted by a strong dollar.

The Swiss Market Index of 22 stocks rose 26.1 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,948.30. The broader Swiss Performance Index of about 330 shares rose 14.38 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,515.46. The Zurich market closes Tuesday afternoon and reopens Friday.

In Oslo, stocks ended 1996 trading at a record high, reflecting the health of the Norwegian economy. The OBX index ended at 968.37 points, up 0.8 percent for the day and a 32.1 percent rise for the year.

The Madrid Stock Exchange, buoyed by gains in bonds, set its seventh straight record Monday, with the general index rising 2.91 points, or 0.66 percent, to end at 443.42.

Shares also closed higher in Paris and Milan, although analysts attributed the gains more to investors' desire to show year-end portfolio gains than to fundamental strength.

U.S. stocks found little direction in the bond market, which was trading nearly unchanged despite some potentially inflationary indications in the day's economic news.

The dollar continued to rise against the yen. Page 10

The National Association of Realtors reported that sales of existing homes unexpectedly rose 1.8 percent in November, the first increase in six months, as mortgage rates continued to fall. Many analysts had expected the tally to dip last month.

The Conference Board research group reported that its gauge of future economic growth rose 0.1 percent in November.

It was the 10th straight month without a drop in the Index of Leading Economic Indicators and the latest piece of evidence pointing to moderate growth with little inflation.

The price of the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell just 2/32 to 99 16/32, pushing the yield up slightly to 6.54 percent from 6.53 percent Friday.

An early Treasury rally fizzled as investors declined to place bets until the New Year, said Gerald Thunelius, a bond manager at the Dreyfus Corp. "We had some favorable events today but have to wait before making many decisions," he said.

Bond trading ends at 2 P.M. Eastern time Tuesday, under a recommendation from PSA The Bond Market Trade Association.

On Wall Street, traders said the indications of moderate growth in the U.S.

See STOCKS, Page 10

MEDIA MARKETS

A New Boss Tries to Keep HBO on Top

By Geraldine Fabrikant
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — After a recent screening of Home Box Office's "If These Walls Could Talk," a three-part film about abortion, 450 people sat down to an elegant dinner at the Museum of Modern Art.

The crowd included the film's stars — Demi Moore, Sissy Spacek and Cher — as well as the designer Donna Karan, the author Mary Higgins Clark and the former network anchor Walter Cronkite.

Jeffrey Bewkes, chairman and president of HBO, the oldest and most successful premium U.S. cable channel and a small jewel in Time Warner Inc.'s crown, worked the room, his 6 foot 1 inch (1.85 meter) frame bent over as he moved from one table to another.

Mr. Bewkes may not have quite the flair for publicity that set apart his predecessor and former boss, Michael Fuchs — who was widely credited with building HBO into the most popular premium movie service — but his goal is clearly the same.

In the confused landscape of cable and satellite TV, companies need to convince consumers every month that their programming is worth the fee. HBO's original two-hour movies such as "If These Walls," have helped distinguish the channel from its rivals.

"You're paying a lot for Home Box Office every month," Mr. Bewkes, 44, said in a recent interview. "Home Box Office has to be different than everything else, and people have to know that."

HBO is pushing ahead abroad, where long-term growth opportunities are greatest. Though HBO faces formidable competition in Europe, with Canal Plus SA of France dominating the Continental pay-TV market, and News Corp.'s British Sky Broadcasting PLC leading in Britain, HBO has been forging ahead in Asia in a joint venture with other movie studios. In Latin America, HBO and Sony Corp. are partners in HBO Ole, which began broadcasting five years ago.

The recent merger of Time Warner and Turner Broadcasting System should also help HBO abroad. As John Tinker, an analyst at Montgomery Securities, pointed out: "Now Time Warner owns HBO, Cable News Network and Turner Network Television. That gives it more clout with foreign cable companies."

Over the past 12 years under Mr. Fuchs, HBO became known as the cable network that created unusual programs, from the story of Simon Wiesenthal, the well-known Nazi hunter, and "The Josephine Baker Story," about the singing star of the 1920s and 1930s.

When Mr. Bewkes took over, it was not clear how well he would maintain HBO's momentum. "Bewkes has always been known as a solid executive with a good grasp of the business," Mr. Tinker said. "The question was whether he had the programming flair."

There are already strong indications that Mr. Bewkes, a veteran HBO executive of 17 years, is keeping the company on track. "Gotti," a recent HBO film, received record ratings for cable TV. Though the movie was initially developed under Mr. Fuchs, it was completed under Mr. Bewkes.

In addition, he said, this year the network received a record 19 Golden Globe nominations. "We are having a record year," Mr. Bewkes said. The number of HBO subscribers has increased by 2.7 million. That brings the total for HBO and Cinemax, Time Warner's smaller movie service, to roughly 32.5 million subscribers.

The company's final 1996 earnings have not yet been released, but David Londoner, an analyst for Schroder Wertheim & Co., anticipates that HBO and its affiliates will report revenue of about $1.75 billion for 1996, up from $1.61 billion in 1995. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization — a rough measure of cash flow — will be about $342 million, up from $293 million last year, Mr. Londoner estimated.

That rough cash-flow figure is growing almost twice as fast as it did between 1992 and 1993. For example, Mr. Bewkes said, it grew 9 percent in 1993, and about 18 percent in 1996.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

Dec. 30

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.7405	2.953	1.1225	0.3329	0.1143*	—	5.449*	1.2936	1.5077*	1.2775	1.3425*
Brussels	32.01	54.39	20.605	6.117	2.0985*	18.358	—	23.82	0.2762	23.35	24.485*
Frankfurt	1.5548	2.6267	—	0.2964	0.1017*	0.8909	4.854*	1.15	1.3408*	1.1356	1.1866*
London (a)	1.6902	—	2.6311	8.8711	2,583.961	2.9525	54.289	2.2826	195.8604	2.3225	221.4698
Madrid	131.275	221.628	84.286	24.986	7.077*	75.096	4.0912	97.854	113.366*	95.968	—
Milan	1,528.25	2,587.00	982.25	291.56	—	876.40	47.735	1,128.80	13.151	1,115.78	11.67
New York (b)	—	1.5556a	1.6965	5.2415	1,528.00	1.7453	32.85	1.3407	116.145	1.3780	131.07
Paris	5.254	8.87	3.3734	—	0.3433*	3.0056	0.1637	3.8844	4.5332*	3.8409	4.0035*
Tokyo	116.30	196.55	74.64	22.14	0.759	66.51	3.6247	86.19	—	84.84	0.8864
Toronto	Not Available										
Zurich	1.353	2.2845	0.8683	0.2574	0.0883*	0.7734	4.2143*	—	1.1657*	0.9877	1.0301*
1 ECU	1.249	0.7399	1.9454	6.5605	1,911.74	2.1835	40.0786	1.6695	144.764	1.7086	163.974
1 SDR	1.4356	0.853	2.236	7.5404	2,197.73	2.5096	45.9583	1.9361	165.097	1.9661	188.355

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris, Toronto and Zurich, fixings in other centers.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9988	Greek drac.	247.25	Mex. peso	7.855	S. Afr. rand	4.6835
Australian $	1.2547	Hong Kong $	7.737	N. Zealand $	1.4156	S. Kor. won	843.65
Austrian sch.	10.948	Hung. forint	164.74	Norw. krone	6.4448	Swed. krona	6.8588
Brazil real	1.0441	Indian rupee	35.851	Phil. peso	26.30	Taiwan $	27.25
Chinese yuan	8.2982	Indo. rupiah	2363.60	Polish zloty	2.87	Thai baht	25.60
Czech koruna	27.38	Irish £	0.60	Port. escudo	156.59	Turkish lira	107712.
Danish krone	5.9435	Israeli shek.	3.2599	Russ ruble	5574.00	UAE dirham	3.673
Egypt. pound	3.392	Kuw dinar	0.30	Saudi riyal	3.7505	Venez. boliv.	475.25
Fin. markka	4.64	Malay. ring.	2.5226	Sing. $	1.4003		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6872	1.6858	1.6846	Japanese yen	115.40	114.95	114.45
Canadian dollar	1.3680	1.3680	1.3680	Swiss franc	1.3489	1.3452	1.3416
Deutsche mark	1.5543	1.5514	1.5484				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

Libid-Libor Rates

Dec. 30

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5 3/8 - 5 1/2	3 - 3 1/8	1 13/16 - 1 15/16	6 3/8 - 6 1/2	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	7/16 - 1/2	4 5/16 - 4 7/16
3-month	5 7/16 - 5 9/16	3 - 3 1/8	1 3/4 - 1 7/8	6 7/16 - 6 9/16	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	7/16 - 1/2	4 5/16 - 4 7/16
6-month	5 1/2 - 5 5/8	3 1/16 - 3 3/16	1 11/16 - 1 13/16	6 1/2 - 6 5/8	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	7/16 - 1/2	4 3/8 - 4 1/2
1-year	5 11/16 - 5 13/16	3 1/8 - 3 1/4	1 11/16 - 1 13/16	6 7/8 - 7	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1/2 - 5/8	4 7/16 - 4 9/16

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8 1/4	8 1/4
Federal funds	5 1/4	5.00
90-day CDs dealers	5.41	5.50
180-day CP dealers	5.30	5.35
3 month Treasury bill	5.02	4.97
1-year Treasury bill	5.21	5.17
2-year Treasury bill	5.78	5.78
5-year Treasury note	6.09	6.08
7-year Treasury note	6.17	6.16
10-year Treasury note	6.29	6.28
30-year Treasury bond	6.54	6.54
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	4.95	4.95
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.42	0.44
1-month interbank	0.53	0.53
3-month interbank	0.56	0.53
6-month interbank	0.56	0.56
10-year Govt bond	2.77	2.71
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	5.00	3.00
1-month interbank	3.15	3.30
3-month interbank	3.15	3.20
6-month interbank	3.18	3.15
10-year Bond	5.78	5.80
Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	6 1/8	6.00
1-month interbank	6 5/16	6 5/16
3-month interbank	6 1/2	6 7/16
6-month interbank	6 5/8	6 5/8
10-year Gilt	7.63	7.49
France		
Intervention rate	3.15	3.15
Call money	3 1/4	3 1/4
1-month interbank	3 3/8	3 3/8
3-month interbank	3 3/8	3 3/8
6-month interbank	3 3/8	3 3/8
10-year OAT	5.56	5.70

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	369.60	369.25	—0.10
London	369.60	369.25	—0.15
New York	371.20	371.20	+0.10

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (Feb.)
Source: Reuters.

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INSTRACORP acquired the world-wide rights to an internationally patented unique Needle Impulse Generator (NIG) in the form of a small module which, when installed in any electrical appliance, will save 30 to 80% on electrical consumption without effecting the unit's output or performance. Already several major industrial groups are negotiating the integration of the NIG in their products. Independent labs and research institutions in the US, Germany and elsewhere attested the NIG's performance. INSTRACORP appointed Aminex S.A.R.L. as underwriters for their new issue of 8,000,000 common shares, $ 0.001 par value, Reg S with two years restriction, and Aminex is offering to non US citizens or residents, on "first come first serve basis" such shares at the following prices: First 2,000,000 shares at $ 3.00/share, second 2,000,000 shares at $ 5.00/share, third 2,000,000 shares at $ 7.00/share and last 2,000,000 shares at $9.00 share. Minimum subscription is 10,000 shares. Please contact:
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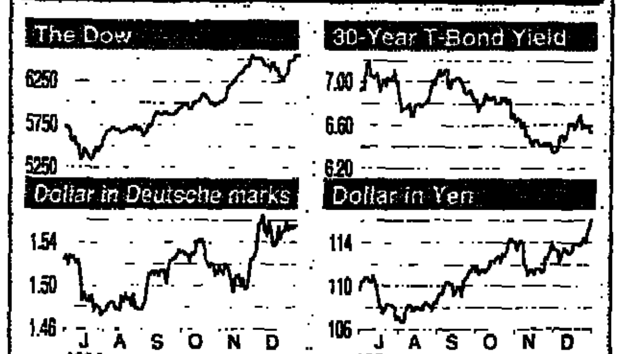


Exchange	Index	Monday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	6549.37	6560.91	-0.18
NYSE	S&P 500	753.85	756.79	-0.39
NYSE	S&P 100	733.20	736.64	-0.47
NYSE	Composite	397.42	398.10	-0.17
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1291.19	1291.38	-0.01
AMEX	Market Value	583.46	581.93	+0.26
Toronto	TSE Index	5954.25	5902.81	+0.87
São Paulo	Bovespa	70399.50	70069.50	+0.47
Mexico City	Bolsa	3346.95	3327.20	+0.59
Buenos Aires	Merval	649.37	650.23	-0.13
Santiago	IPSA General	4902.59	4919.77	-0.35
Caracas	Capital General	6623.49	6607.79	+0.24

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Brooklyn Union Gas Co.** agreed to merge with the **Long Island Lighting Co.** in a $3 billion deal that will create one utility serving 2.2 million customers in the New York area with revenue of more than $4.5 billion.
- James Quello, 82, will leave the **Federal Communications Commission** in June, after serving the agency for 23 years, Daily Variety reported.
- **Banc One Corp.** agreed to acquire **Liberty Bancorp** for $546 million in stock, adding 29 branches and $2.9 billion in assets, making Banc One the largest bank in Oklahoma City and one of the top three banks in Oklahoma.
- **Humana Inc.** the operator of managed health-care plans, based in Louisville, Kentucky, said it would cut 700 to 900 jobs, in 1997 as it struggles to reduce costs and stem declining earnings.
- Shareholders of **Crestar Financial Corp.** and **Citizens Bancorp** approved Crestar's purchase of Citizens for about $916 million in stock, the companies said. The acquisition, which creates the biggest bank in Washington, will result in a pretax charge of about $50 million, Crestar said. *AP, Bloomberg*

Weekend Box Office

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Michael" dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend, with a gross of $17.8 million. Following are the Top 10 moneymakers, based on Friday's ticket sales and estimated sales for Saturday and Sunday.

1. Michael	(New Line Cinema)	$17.8 million
2. Jerry Maguire	(Tri-Star)	$14.3 million
3. 101 Dalmatians	(Walt Disney)	$11.8 million
4. Beavis & Butthead Do America	(Paramount)	$10.4 million
5. Scream	(Dimension Films)	$8.5 million
6. One Fine Day	(20th Century Fox)	$8.1 million
7. The Preacher's Wife	(Touchstone)	$7.7 million
8. Mars Attacks!	(Warner Bros.)	$5.1 million
9. My Fellow Americans	(Warner Bros.)	$4.2 million
10. The Evening Star	(Paramount)	$3.3 million

End to Mexico Phone Monopoly

Unhappy Customers and U.S. Firms May Benefit

By John Ward Anderson
Washington Post Service

QUERETARO, Mexico — It was supposed to be a great technological leap, but when Marco del Prete's home telephone service was upgraded from pulse- to digital-dialing, it was more like a tumble into the Dark Ages.

The modernization necessitated a change in phone numbers, and Telmex, Mexico's monopoly phone company, mistakenly gave him a number reserved for a commercial line, which cost five times more than a residential one, and it continued to charge him for his old phone line. When he refused to pay the bill, Telmex sent an attorney after him.

Fernando Dias said he has waited six months for a new phone line in his office, but Telmex, or Telefonos de Mexico, as it is officially known, wants more than 20,000 pesos ($2,550) to install it. This from a company that crossed his phone lines, took weeks to make repairs and charged him for calls he did not make to Singapore and India.

"Since they're the only company, if you don't pay them, they just cut you off," he said. "It's blackmail."

But the angry customers of Telmex, the reviled government monopoly that was converted to a private monopoly six years ago, may get their revenge.

On Wednesday, the long-distance telephone industry here will throw open its doors to competitors for the first time, ending a 49-year monopoly on costly, inefficient phone service and fully privatizing it. Eight competitors, including the telecommunications giants AT&T and MCI, are hovering around the beleaguered Mexican phone company.

There is such widespread dissatisfaction with Telmex that in the coming years, the company could lose as much as half of Mexico's $4 billion annual long-distance market. Spurred by the huge number of calls between the United States and Mexico, which have more telephone traffic between them than any two countries except the United States and Canada, some analysts believe the annual long-distance market here could grow to $11 billion within five years.

There were about 2.4 billion minutes of calls between Mexico and the United States in 1994 and the figure is growing about 18 percent a year, industry analysts said.

Such a potential beating on its home turf could spell trouble not only for Telmex, but for Mexico. The company is so large — it has been the most actively traded stock on Wall Street for the last two years and accounts for about a quarter of the value of the Mexican stock exchange — that it has spawned a maxim here: As Telmex goes, so goes the economy.

Government officials and Telmex executives say competition will be good for consumers and for Telmex.

"Maybe we'll lose clients," a Telmex spokesman said, "but we believe competition will create a bigger market and we can expand as a global telecommunications company."

Others are not so sure.

"My take is that they'll lose 15 percent of the market share by the end of the year, but I don't think Telmex's woes are 12-month woes," said Ray Ligouri, a telecommunications analyst at the brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch & Co. in New York. He and other analysts foresee that Telmex could eventually lose half its long-distance customers.

Furthermore, according to an industry analyst who asked not to be identified, the privatization of the Mexican phone industry "is a classic Latin American story of the haves and have-nots." The vast majority of Mexicans, who do not have phones, will not benefit, because the focus is on high-profit, long-distance service, not high-cost, local installation.

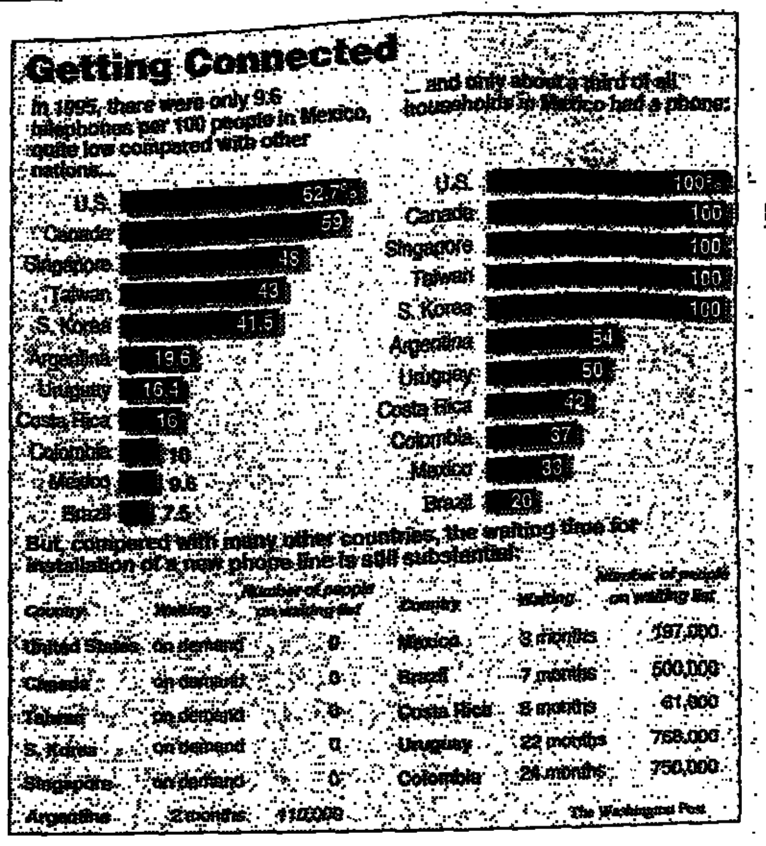
"Yes, the money today is in long distance," said the Mexican secretary of transportation and communications, Carlos Ruiz Sacristan, "but with competition, in the end, I believe the money will be in the company that has the telephones in the houses — that's local service." With various incentives, he predicted that the number of phone lines in Mexico would double in 10 years.

The privatization has come in two phases. The first began in late 1990 when, after 43 years as a bloated and much maligned state monopoly, Telmex was sold to the country's richest businessman, Carlos Slim Helu, for about $1.8 billion.

As part of the sale agreement, Mr. Slim was granted a six-year monopoly on long-distance telephone service, the most profitable part of the industry, during which he promised to upgrade the country's telephone network.

By all accounts, Mr. Slim fulfilled his part of the bargain. But now, the customers get to weigh in. As Mr. Slim's long-distance monopoly ends, other telephone companies will be allowed to offer domestic and international long-distance services to people on Telmex's blanketing local network. The companies will pay Telmex a fee of about 5.3 cents per minute to use the lines. Even so, industry analysts expect long-distance prices to drop by 20 to 30 percent.

According to telecommunications analysts and executives, the company positioned to serve the most customers is Avantel, a joint venture between MCI and Grupo Financiero Banamex-Accival, Mexico's largest financial group.



Dollar Rises on Fear of Yen Decline

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar climbed against the yen Monday for the seventh consecutive trading day as investors protected themselves against possible declines in the yen overseas during Japan's weeklong New Year holidays.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, continuing to benefit from last week's buying as traders close out positions at the end of the year, analysts said.

The dollar closed at 116.145 yen, up from 115.30 yen Friday.

The dollar, trading at its highest levels in more than three-and-a-half years, has gained almost 3 yen in the past seven trading days, and more than 13 yen since the end of last year.

The dollar also rose to 1.5550 Deutsche marks from 1.5545 DM; and climbed to 1.3487 Swiss francs from 1.3485 francs. But it fell to 5.2415 French francs from 5.2435 francs. The pound fell to $1.6905 from $1.6920 Friday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Anxiety over the Japanese economy and its wobbly stock market, whose main index fell to its lowest levels of the year last week, drove the yen down, traders said.

"Tokyo's equities markets are not in good shape, and that has foreign exchange investors worried," said Hiro Maejima, a trader at Citibank. "The dollar-buying climax doesn't seem to have hit yet, and many investors are wary that the Bank of Japan will not be able to directly intervene in support of the yen over the holiday."

The U.S. currency seemed unaffected by the release of U.S. leading economic indicators, traders said. The November index was up 0.1 percent.

With a lack of comments from either Tokyo or Washington to stem the dollar's rise against the yen, the U.S. currency tide has only farther to go this week, traders said.

One trader said 117 yen was "easily" the objective for the week. "There are no comments to restrict dollar-yen from heading up higher," she said. But traders will be wary of bidding the dollar too high with Tokyo closed for the rest of the week. *(AP, Market News)*

STOCKS: *U.S. Markets Give Up Gains*

Continued from Page 9

economy would keep interest rates stable, which in turn would help stock prices.

"As long as rates stay where they are," the tendency of investors to favor stocks "has to be to the upside," said Jack Baker, head trader at Furman Selz Inc.

On the Big Board, Computer Associates was the most active issue, gaining 1 to 49¾. A profit warning by the company sparked a technology sell-off Friday.

Dow components that fell included IBM, down 1⅜ to 153⅜; Walt Disney, down 1⅜ to 70, and American Express, down 1 to 57⅞. Dow gainers included Xerox, up 1¼ to 52¾, and AT&T, up ¼ to 44.

Regional telephone stocks, which led the rally Friday, were big losers Monday. BellSouth fell 2¼ to 41¾, SBC Communications retreated 1½ to 53⅝ and Ameritech dropped 1⅜ to 61¼.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite index ended down 0.19 point at 1,291.19 after rising earlier in the day. Software publishers

U.S. STOCKS

plummeted, giving back early gains. Zitel, the most active issue, plunged 20¼ to 41. Acceler8 Technology dropped 5⅛ to 16⅜.

Apple Computer shares fell 1⅜ to 21¾ after a story posted on the Internet said the computer maker's worldwide market share had dropped to 5.4 percent from 8.7 percent and its U.S. market share to 7.3 percent from 13.2 percent. *(AFP, AFX, AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)*

AMEX

Monday's 4 p.m. Close

The top 300 most-active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
AMC	1874	[illegible]	[illegible]	14	[illegible]
ARC	417	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AVIC Gp n	155	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AdvMed	1213	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AirWat	420	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AHaagen	258	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alfin	388	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AlldDgtl	149	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AlldRsh	345	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alphatn	376	8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AltLvng n	246	[illegible]	[illegible]	14	[illegible]
Amdhl	1797	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AExpl	265	[illegible]	[illegible]	16	[illegible]
AmerPag	385	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AScIE	1922	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ATechC	271	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ampal	187	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ampal wt	147	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amoex n	6329	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Andrea	387	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Apogee	211	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ArizLd	180	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Astrotc	429	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Audvox	1612	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	[illegible]
AurorEl	1095	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Autotote	2476	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Axogen un	547	24	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Azco	831	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
B&HO	330	3	[illegible]	3	[illegible]
Baldw	559	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Balinty	197	19	[illegible]	19	[illegible]
Bayou	304	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BemaGold	1860	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	[illegible]
BentPh	217	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BioR A s	151	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BlairCp	190	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BlondT	176	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bowmr	417	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bowne	171	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brandyw s	143	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brscn g	347	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cablvsn	1012	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cablvs pf	453	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CagleA	150	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1
Calton	220	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cambior	374	15	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cambrx s	171	[illegible]	31	[illegible]	[illegible]
ecCancTr	434	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CanyonRs	717	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Carematx n	143	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CFCdag	338	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ChedThr	945	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chief	1832	[illegible]	[illegible]	25	[illegible]
Chtm pf	286	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citadel	622	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ColLb	1068	[illegible]	[illegible]	14	[illegible]
ColuEng	212	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Comforce	217	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CmcdAst	210	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CmdrAp n	349	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CmdrA wt	287	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CmplAsn	231	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Comtrek	176	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	[illegible]
CornCor n	157	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cross	617	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ecCrwnL	168	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CrulsAm	165	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	[illegible]
CybeUni	654	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cycom es	1144	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DI Ind	1435	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DakotaM	315	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DanlHd	1665	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Datamet	2167	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DaytonMn	352	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DiagRet	197	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DiaICT	281	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Diodes	306	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Drewind	140	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DrylMu	216	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ecETS Int	161	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EZ Serv	223	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EchoBay	8860	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Elsinto	144	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Edisto	2080	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
E'PasoE n	2136	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Elzdorad	148	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Elsevth	149	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EmerR	622	4	[illegible]	4	[illegible]
EmpCar	422	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EnzoBi	867	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Excel	874	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FarmT wt	180	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FemHlth	228	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FlAusl	448	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FAusPr	4638	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ForstLb	4563	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1
FortPet	349	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FrnkSel	336	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FreqEl	126	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GST Tele	1158	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GavlCn	4456	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GeimSci	192	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GnAuto	915	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GnEmp	441	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GnMicr	146	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GetchGld	292	[illegible]	39	[illegible]	[illegible]
GlobFd	332	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glolfil	210	18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Globlnk	541	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GoVideo	542	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
GldStrR	1316	[illegible]	13	[illegible]	[illegible]
GldFd	231	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GreyhndL	2200	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GrSimec	210	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
GuilLb	463	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HallEP	141	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Halsey	188	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HamCar	2492	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hac wtB	5778	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harken	1677	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hasbro	2397	37	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HawAir	1575	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HimPro s	358	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HitPlanet	102	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hearx n	31457	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Heico s	292	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+3
HelmRes	141	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HomeVII n	381	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HomeV wt	272	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HovnEn	869	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HuntaTel	214	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ICG Com	343	[illegible]	17	[illegible]	[illegible]
IGI	711	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Identix	1219	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ImeClVia	173	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ImeOR g	652	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
InterDig	3167	6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
eclntrims	637	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intrmagn	621	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IntIS	794	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IntThrgh	154	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IntrsGC	170	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IonLaser	251	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
IvaxCp	15811	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JTS Corp	3768	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JanBell	1017	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jetronic	266	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jonelnt	220	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KFX Inc	154	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KatzM	227	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
Keane s	1770	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1
KeyEng	1805	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KnogNA	341	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KogrEq	765	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LXR Biot	643	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LaBarg	326	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LsrTech	261	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LazKap	309	18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LehK 98wt	220	8	8	8	[illegible]
LaVern	173	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MAI Sys	838	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	[illegible]
MHM Serv	166	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MSR	216	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Magellan	462	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1
MaxmPet	168	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MaximPh n	176	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MeasSpcl	165	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MedcR	322	[illegible]	10	[illegible]	[illegible]
Media	164	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MediaLog	541	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Media	250	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	[illegible]
MercAir	191	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MerPntg	315	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MerPf 8pf	140	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MLNik 97wt	400	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Metromda	2026	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MichAnl	442	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MidatRty	383	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
MorgnF	1649	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MSNik 97wt	400	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MntsSE	1084	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MovieStr	437	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MuniIn	271	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MuniMtg n	341	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Muniyst	867	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Myersind	150	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NTNCom	1509	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NVR	1062	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nabors	2475	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NtPatnt	206	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NatAlt	385	[illegible]	8	8	[illegible]
NY Times	987	[illegible]	38	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nordic wt	221	[illegible]	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
NA Vacc	321	25	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Novavx	993	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NCAPI	185	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OOkiep	184	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OmniMull	340	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oncor	1019	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Organn	1294	[illegible]	23	[illegible]	[illegible]
PC Quote	1106	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PGECap pf	192	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PLC Sys	1521	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PMC CT	188	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PacR&E n	270	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PanAmC n	453	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paxsnc	1503	8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PegGld	2974	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PeopleTel	291	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
Permc	187	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	[illegible]
PhxNet	212	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phonetel	750	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
PinRsc	155	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Polymed	294	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Polyph	687	[illegible]	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
Polyvsn	180	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PortSys s	371	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ProHlth	458	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PrndLg	843	[illegible]	17	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pricell s	212	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
ProActiv n	671	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PropCT	161	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PsycCp	549	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RF Pow	438	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ReaGold	547	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Redlaw	190	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rotonic	156	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RoyalO g	6095	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SaboPet s	1118	[illegible]	25	[illegible]	[illegible]
SBYen wt98	167	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SFenGam	205	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SFeGa pf	418	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ShefldMd	797	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SilverFds	510	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SmtBin	187	[illegible]	10	10	[illegible]
Softnet	333	[illegible]	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
ecSolIgen	714	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SthstB	202	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SocOrm	294	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stage	277	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	[illegible]
SPDR	5651	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SP Mid	1786	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
StevinIA	280	18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SubstAbus	4747	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sulcus	1895	2	[illegible]	2	[illegible]
SumtTx	173	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SunNur	220	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Suprmind	152	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Techne	174	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TelDta	1318	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tenera	179	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TexBiotch	485	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thermed	532	[illegible]	18	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThCard	300	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThmFib s	162	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThrInst	227	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThrSpect	226	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ThrVoll s	275	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thrmolse	902	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thrmtrx	804	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tofutti	257	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TopSrce	4216	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TotlPet	228	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TownCty	1190	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TWA wt	281	[illegible]	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
TWA	9458	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TrexMed n	530	[illegible]	[illegible]	13	[illegible]
Tubmex	2644	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UTI Eng	183	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unglob	148	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UniMrr	173	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unlab	2031	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unimar	220	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UnioMlt	304	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
USBiosci s	400	[illegible]	[illegible]	13	[illegible]
US Cell	143	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VKAdvt2	864	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VKSelS	286	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Viacom	1003	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ViacB	5322	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Viac wtC	6176	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Viac wtE	959	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VideoG	901	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vitronic	401	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VoyMN2	342	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WRIT	256	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Webcoind	393	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	[illegible]
WIRET	152	13	[illegible]	13	[illegible]
WhenE s	149	6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WshTC	203	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WirelessT s	925	[illegible]	10	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB Beln	144	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEBFra n	1401	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEBGer n	1157	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB Jpn n	3196	[illegible]	13	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB Net n	617	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB Swz n	1138	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WEB UK n	7905	[illegible]	15	15	[illegible]
XCL Ltd	22895	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Xytron	464	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	6571.29	6587.05	6540.53	6549.37	—11.54
Trans	2288.65	2292.81	2278.71	2280.64	—7.05
Util	236.37	238.44	234.63	235.12	—0.83
Comp	2061.44	2064.33	2051.30	2053.98	—4.80

Standard & Poors

	High	Low	Close	Chg.
Industrials	890.84	882.53	883.83	—4.12
Transp.	550.61	546.55	547.23	—0.97
Utilities	201.62	200.39	200.81	—0.56
Finance	84.48	83.97	84.10	—0.03
SP 500	759.20	752.73	753.85	—2.94
SP 100	739.74	732.40	733.20	—3.44

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	399.25	396.88	397.42	—0.68
Industrials	502.77	499.64	500.34	—0.53
Transp.	356.44	355.36	355.55	—0.10
Utility	265.25	262.26	262.73	—2.38
Finance	358.78	357.18	357.65	—0.06

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1294.51	1291.19	1291.19	—0.19
Industrials	1103.32	1100.86	1101.81	—1.48
Banks	1271.34	1267.69	1270.93	+1.48
Insurance	1463.61	1453.59	1463.61	+5.05
Finance	1602.62	1594.26	1601.16	+8.69
Transp.	896.03	890.41	896.03	+5.17

AMEX

High	Low	Last	Chg.
583.81	581.55	583.46	+1.53

Dow Jones Bond

	Close	Chg.
20 Bonds	103.88	+0.26
10 Utilities	100.64	+0.16
10 Industrials	107.12	+0.37

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
CmpAsc s	72468	50⅝	49⅛	49¾	+1
Hanson s	61568	7	6⅞	6⅞	—
Iomega s	53790	17⅞	16¼	16⅜	—1
WstgEl	52806	20	19⅛	19⅝	[illegible]
PacGE	41910	21⅝	21⅛	21⅛	[illegible]
AT&T s	40430	44½	43⅝	44	[illegible]
PepsiCo s	33753	30⅜	29⅞	30	[illegible]
BrMySq	33816	112⅞	110⅜	110⅝	—1⅜
BayNtwk	28459	21⅜	21⅜	21⅜	[illegible]
Compaq	27697	75⅜	73⅝	73⅝	[illegible]
LLCo	25274	22⅝	21⅝	22	+2⅝
Digital	24723	38⅝	36	36⅝	—2
MicrnT	24648	30⅞	29⅝	30	[illegible]
K mart	22773	10⅝	10⅛	10⅜	[illegible]
Unisys	22868	7⅛	6⅝	6⅞	[illegible]

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Zitel s	117268	72⅝	40⅝	41	—20¼
SunMic s	88399	28⅜	26	26⅝	[illegible]
Intel	57078	136⅝	133⅛	133⅝	[illegible]
UniCmp	56943	10⅛	5	9⅞	+4⅝
Novell	53311	9⅝	9⅛	9⅝	[illegible]
Acceler8 n	46615	30⅝	16⅛	16⅜	—5⅛
WorldCm s	45383	25	24⅝	24⅝	[illegible]
ReddBrk	44832	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DellCpt s	37923	54⅞	52⅝	52¼	[illegible]
TeleComA	34838	13¼	13	13⅛	[illegible]
Microsft s	33962	85⅝	83⅞	83⅞	[illegible]
Oracle s	30727	43⅝	41⅝	41⅞	[illegible]
Cisco s	27978	66⅝	64⅝	64⅝	—1⅞
3Com	26919	79⅝	75⅝	75⅝	—3⅝
AppleC	23327	23⅛	21⅜	21¾	—1⅜

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Hearx n	31457	3⅝	3⅛	3⅝	[illegible]
XCL Ltd	22895	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IvaxCp	15811	10⅛	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TWA	9458	7⅛	6⅝	6⅞	[illegible]
EchoBay	8860	6⅝	6⅝	6⅝	[illegible]
WEB UK n	7905	15⅛	15	15	[illegible]
Ampex n	6329	[illegible]	8⅝	8⅝	[illegible]
Viac wtC	6176	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RoyalO g	6095	3⅝	3⅛	3⅝	[illegible]
Hon wtB	5778	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1406	1599
Declined	1106	899
Unchanged	842	849
Total issues	3354	3306
New Highs	215	168
New Lows	33	27

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	289	278
Declined	292	260
Unchanged	197	213
Total issues	778	751
New Highs	33	33
New Lows	27	15

Nasdaq

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1868	1931
Declined	2187	1928
Unchanged	1700	1896
Total issues	5755	5755
New Highs	171	160
New Lows	204	125

Market Sales

	Today Close	Prev. cons.
NYSE	339.01	318.42
Amex	24.83	24.78
Nasdaq	488.00	390.28

In millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Banco Bilbao Viz	b	.3583	1-9	1-21
R&G Fincl B	-	.0688	1-15	2-15
REVERSE STOCK SPLIT				
Antares Resources 1 for 10 reverse split.				
Chyron Corp - 1 for 3 reverse split.				
Futurebiotics Inc 1 for 10 reverse split.				
YEAREND				
Evergreen Y	-	.181	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Bal A	-	1.243	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Bal B	-	1.217	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Bal Y	-	1.252	12-27	12-30
Evergreen	-	.249	12-27	12-30
Evergreen	-	.219	12-27	12-30
Evergreen C	-	.22	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Y	-	.259	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Grth A	-	.38	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Grth B	-	.345	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Inco Y	-	.393	12-27	12-30
Evergreen	-	.33	12-27	12-30
Evergreen	-	.235	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Tott	-	.284	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Value A	-	3.425	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Value B	-	3.382	12-27	12-30
Evergreen Value Y	-	3.44	12-27	12-30
Fidelity Incom II	-	1.19	12-27	12-27
Fidel Sports CA	-	.002	12-27	12-27
REGULAR				
Amer Bancorp OH.	Q	.25	1-13	1-17
Century Fin	Q	.15	1-17	1-31
Comcast Corp A	-	.0233	3-6	3-27
Community SFL	Q	.20	1-15	2-3
Fst Franklin	Q	.08	1-3	1-21
Fst Svgs N.J.	Q	.125	1-6	1-17
GFS Bancorp	Q	.10	1-10	1-24
Green Street Fin	Q	.10	1-10	1-22
Methode El A&B.	Q	.05	1-15	1-31
Stewart & Steve	Q	.085	1-31	2-14
Stewart Enterprise	Q	.02	1-10	1-24
VSE Corp	Q	.045	2-3	2-21
Wayne Svgs Ln	Q	.23	1-8	1-24

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration. a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cc - PE exceeds 99. cld - called. d - new yearly low. dd - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. p - initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. q - closed-end mutual fund. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Dec. 30, 1996

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
Grains					
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
Mar 97	2.63	2.58	2.58¼	-0.06¼	147,618
May 97	2.64	2.60½	2.60¾	-0.05	53,332
Jul 97	2.66	2.62½	2.62¾	-0.04¾	54,591
Sep 97	2.61¾	2.59	2.59	-0.04	6,695
Dec 97	2.59½	2.57½	2.57¾	-0.02¾	37,475
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 27,519					
Fri's open int 303,112 off 245					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
Jan 97	229.80	228.00	228.50	-2.40	16,518
Mar 97	220.70	218.30	219.60	-2.30	31,769
May 97	215.00	212.70	214.00	-1.80	16,960
Jul 97	213.80	211.50	212.90	-1.60	11,292
Aug 97	212.00	210.80	211.40	-1.70	2,198
Sep 97	209.60	208.50	208.60	-1.30	2,044
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 12,748					
Fri's open int 82,356 up 340					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- dollars per 100 lbs.					
Jan 97	22.90	22.66	22.71	-0.15	11,192
Mar 97	23.40	23.06	23.16	-0.14	38,558
May 97	23.65	23.45	23.54	-0.11	14,515
Jul 97	23.96	23.75	23.85	-0.12	9,969
Aug 97	24.05	23.85	23.93	-0.10	2,043
Sep 97	24.15	23.96	24.00	-0.13	1,617
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 12,708					
Fri's open int 79,797 off 1039					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
Jan 97	7.00	6.94	6.94¾	-0.07½	25,278
Mar 97	6.94¾	6.90	6.90½	-0.06¼	55,853
May 97	6.91½	6.87	6.87½	-0.05¾	26,865
Jul 97	6.91	6.87	6.87½	-0.05	24,588
Aug 97	6.89	6.85½	6.85½	-0.05	3,313
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 24,727					
Fri's open int 147,649 off 1192					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
Mar 97	3.89	3.81½	3.82	-0.07½	32,009
May 97	3.65½	3.61	3.61¾	-0.05½	6,712
Jul 97	3.41	3.38½	3.38¾	-0.03	20,058
Sep 97	3.46½	3.43½	3.43½	-0.03	996
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 4,718					
Fri's open int 60,498 up 305					
Livestock					
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Feb 97	66.00	65.15	65.87	+1.07	33,739
Apr 97	66.45	65.70	66.30	+0.88	23,072
Jun 97	63.65	63.25	63.57	+0.75	10,129
Aug 97	63.37	63.00	63.32	+0.67	9,562
Oct 97	66.05	65.60	66.02	+0.62	4,091
Dec 97	67.55	67.15	67.47	+0.62	2,017
Est. sales 16,881 Fri's. sales 5,514					
Fri's open int 84,573 up 351					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jan 97	68.25	67.62	68.20	+1.33	3,359
Mar 97	68.55	67.60	68.55	+1.50	5,177
Apr 97	68.95	68.00	68.92	+1.45	2,047
May 97	69.20	68.40	69.20	+1.40	3,019
Aug 97	71.25	70.35	71.25	+1.48	2,150
Sep 97	71.00	70.00	70.95	+1.45	336
Est. sales 3,513 Fri's. sales 1,435					
Fri's open int 16,542 up 146					
HOGS-Lean (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Feb 97	79.50	79.50	79.50	+2.00	12,766
Apr 97	74.72	74.72	74.72	+2.00	5,519
Jun 97	77.22	77.22	77.22	+2.00	5,476
Jul 97			73.87	+2.00	1,404
Aug 97	69.87	69.87	69.87	+2.00	1,055
Oct 97	63.47	63.47	63.47	+2.00	950
Est. sales 531 Fri's. sales 5,274					
Fri's open int 27,910 up 140					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Feb 97	80.42	80.42	80.42	+3.00	4,210
Mar 97	80.05	80.05	80.05	+3.00	906
May 97	80.52	80.52	80.52	+3.00	670
Jul 97			79.15	+3.00	525
Aug 97			75.60	+3.00	158
Est. sales 108 Fri's. sales 1,039					
Fri's open int 6,469 off 101					
Food					
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
Mar 97	1358	1350	1354	-8	33,819
May 97	1381	1376	1380	-5	13,499
Jul 97	1403	1400	1402	-7	10,344
Sep 97	1424	1419	1420	-4	6,900
Dec 97	1439	1434	1435	-4	1,601
Est. sales 4,424 Fri's. sales 2,450					
Fri's open int 81,565 up 259					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 97	117.45	115.10	115.95	-0.25	18,511
May 97	114.60	113.00	113.65	+0.10	6,770
Jul 97	113.28	111.50	112.10		2,091
Sep 97	111.25	110.00	111.25	+0.80	1,602
Est. sales 6,642 Fri's. sales 9,836					
Fri's open int 30,415 up 2035					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 97	11.00	10.87	10.97	+0.10	77,956
May 97	10.99	10.87	10.99	+0.10	31,636
Jul 97	10.93	10.86	10.92	+0.03	24,423
Oct 97	10.92	10.85	10.90	+0.02	14,149
Est. sales 23,107 Fri's. sales 26,945					
Fri's open int 154,136 up 4577					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jan 97	78.10	76.00	76.50	-1.60	4,494
Mar 97	82.00	79.25	80.10	-1.75	17,380
May 97	85.50	82.75	83.65	-1.95	4,072
Jul 97	88.75	84.50	87.00	-2.00	952
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 5,625					
Fri's open int 27,535 off 94					
Metals					
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Jan 97			370.30	+0.10	
Feb 97	371.70	371.00	371.20	+0.10	88,892
Apr 97	374.00	373.10	373.40	+0.10	23,126
Jun 97	376.30	375.50	375.80	+0.10	16,737
Aug 97			378.20	+0.10	5,459
Oct 97	381.30	380.40	380.70	+0.10	2,357
Dec 97	383.20	382.80	383.20	+0.10	14,340
Feb 98			385.70	+0.10	1,187
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 6,926					
Fri's open int 185,303 off 996					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jan 97	101.60	100.70	100.75	-0.75	5,078
Feb 97	100.10	99.30	99.45	-0.65	1,582
Mar 97	99.15	98.10	98.25	-0.35	20,232
Apr 97	97.35	97.35	97.15	-0.20	957
May 97	96.50	95.90	95.95	-0.15	4,341
Jun 97	95.55	95.55	95.50	-0.05	763
Jul 97	94.70	94.50	94.55	+0.05	3,510
Aug 97	94.00	94.00	93.80	+0.05	576
Sep 97	93.50	93.20	93.15	+0.10	2,640
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 6,011					
Fri's open int 49,028 off 1449					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Jan 97	486.5	486.5	476.9	-9.8	19
Feb 97			479.2	-9.8	2
Mar 97	492.0	480.0	481.5	-9.8	54,724
May 97	496.5	485.5	486.1	-9.8	9,404
Jul 97	493.0	490.0	490.6	-9.8	8,317
Sep 97	497.0	497.0	495.2	-9.8	3,610
Dec 97	513.0	501.5	502.0	-9.8	4,720
Jan 98			504.8	-9.8	5
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 9,706					
Fri's open int 82,451 up 505					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Jan 97	373.00	370.00	372.60	-0.30	4,325
Apr 97	376.00	373.00	375.90	+0.80	16,439
Jul 97	378.50	377.00	378.60	+0.80	2,040
Oct 97	381.00	380.00	381.30	+0.80	2,092
Jan 98			384.00	+0.80	1,049
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 3,537					
Fri's open int 26,345 off 294					

LONDON METALS (LME) Dollars per metric ton

	Close		Previous	
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1511½	1513½	1524½	1525½
Forward	1542.00	1544.00	1554.00	1555.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2218.00	2223.00	2259.00	2260.00
Forward	2126.00	2128.00	2162.00	2163.00
Lead				
Spot	694½	695½	715.00	715½
Forward	715.00	717.00	715.00	717.00
Nickel				
Spot	6305.00	6315.00	6390.00	6400.00
Forward	6405.00	6410.00	6495.00	6500.00
Tin				
Spot	5680.00	5690.00	5710.00	5711.00
Forward	5740.00	5750.00	5770.00	5775.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1048½	1049½	1054.00	1055.00
Forward	1068.00	1069½	1076½	1077.00

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
Financial					
US T. BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Mar 97	94.99	94.97	94.97	-0.01	4,018
Jun 97	94.87	94.87	94.87	+0.01	2,444
Sep 97			94.75		27
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 551					
Fri's open int 6,491 up 220					
5 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Mar 97	107-065	107-01	107-02	— 01	145,526
Jun 97			106-25	— 01	2,706
Est. sales 18,062 Fri's. sales 7,772					
Fri's open int 150,681 off 928					
10 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Dec 96			108-17	— 01	10,549
Mar 97	110-05	109-27	109-29	— 01	281,260
Jun 97	109-16	109-09	109-10	— 01	10,683
Est. sales 15,000 Fri's. sales 26,510					
Fri's open int 299,512 off 55					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Mar 97	114-06	113-26	113-28	— 02	436,430
Jun 97	113-21	113-11	113-12	— 02	15,086
Sep 97	113-03	112-30	112-30	— 02	5,130
Dec 97			112-17	— 01	3,742
Est. sales 110,000 Fri's. sales 188,145					
Fri's open int 457,232 off 2908					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Mar 97	110-09	109-25	109-30	— 0-02	131,182
Jun 97	N.T.	N.T.	109-08	— 0-03	134,177
Est. sales: 11,484. Prev. sales: 4,676					
Prev. open int.: 134,177 off 39					
GERMAN GOVERNMENT BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	100.78	100.73	100.80	+ 0.13	218,891
Jun 97	N.T.	N.T.	99.93	+ 0.13	219,140
Est. sales: 21,135. Prev. sales: 5,983					
Prev. open int.: 219,140 off 1,653					
10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF) FF500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	129.46	129.20	129.30	+0.00	126,623
Jun 97	128.08	127.94	128.00	+0.00	8,892
Sep 97	126.06	126.06	126.00	+0.00	0
Dec 97	N.T.	N.T.	95.50	+0.00	0
Est. volume: 23,077. Open int.: 318,168 up 179.					
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	128.78	128.38	128.55	+ 0.30	87,998
Jun 97	N.T.	N.T.	128.07	+ 0.30	
Est. sales: 6,116. Prev. sales: 4,600					
Prev. open int.: 89,298 up 439					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
Jan 97	94.490	94.490	94.490		21,846
Feb 97	94.480	94.470	94.480		4,237
Mar 97	94.480	94.460	94.470		412,876
Jun 97	94.360	94.330	94.330		323,595
Mar 00	93.480	93.440	93.440		38,506
Jun 00	93.420	93.380	93.380		35,428
Sep 00	93.370	93.340	93.340		31,128
Dec 00	93.290	93.260	93.260		25,122
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 89,591					
Fri's open int 2,654,539 up 73					
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Mar 97	1.6980	1.6842	1.6888	-38	34,255
Jun 97	1.6856	1.6810	1.6838	-32	2,170
Sep 97			1.6788	-34	1,027
Dec 97			1.6738	-36	7
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 22,707					
Fri's open int 37,459 up 8445					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Mar 97	.7352	.7337	.7339	-11	51,305
Jun 97	.7390	.7377	.7379	-11	12,578
Sep 97	.7423	.7414	.7414	-11	4,226
Dec 97	.7455	.7448	.7447	-11	307
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 8,788					
Fri's open int 68,414 up 4770					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Dec 96			.6578	-3	17
Mar 97	.6473	.6449	.6461	-3	47,243
Jun 97	.6508	.6486	.6500	-3	4,374
Sep 97			.6539	-3	1,693
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 7,051					
Fri's open int 53,327 off 457					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Dec 96			.009642	-50	7
Mar 97	.008730	.008695	.008700	-50	58,854
Jun 97	.008832	.008812	.008813	-50	1,448
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 17,874					
Fri's open int 60,398 up 4868					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Dec 96	.7671	.7671	.7671	+136	32,779
Mar 97	.7409	.7439	.7465		44,628
Jun 97	.7538	.7366	.7533		1,451
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 5,917					
Fri's open int 47,879 up 791					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	93.31	93.29	93.30	+ 0.01	97,394
Jun 97	93.09	93.07	93.08	+ 0.03	87,271
Sep 97	92.92	92.90	92.91	+ 0.02	57,500
Dec 97	92.74	92.72	92.74	+ 0.03	43,866
Mar 98	92.63	92.59	92.62	+ 0.03	32,467
Jun 98	92.55	92.54	92.55	+ 0.04	23,029
Sep 98	N.T.	N.T.	92.46	+ 0.03	
Dec 98	N.T.	N.T.	92.38	+ 0.04	
Mar 99	92.32	92.32	92.32	+ 0.03	7,978
Jun 99	92.23	92.23	92.23	+ 0.04	5,415
Sep 99	92.18	92.18	92.18	+ 0.03	4,492
Dec 99	92.14	92.14	92.15	+ 0.03	182
Est. sales: 12,519. Prev. sales: 5,170					
Prev. open int.: 394,075 off 1,988					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	96.90	96.87	96.88	+ 0.01	206,662
Jun 97	96.85	96.83	96.83	+ 0.01	168,296
Sep 97	96.72	96.70	96.71	+ 0.03	140,547
Dec 97	96.53	96.50	96.52	+ 0.03	
Mar 98	96.32	96.28	96.31	+ 0.04	82,661
Jun 98	96.03	96.01	96.03	+ 0.04	65,591
Sep 98	95.74	95.72	95.74	+ 0.03	61,003
Dec 98	95.44	95.43	95.43	+ 0.02	
Mar 99	95.16	95.16	95.16	+ 0.03	
Jun 99	94.89	94.89	94.88	+ 0.03	
Sep 99	94.63	94.63	94.63	+ 0.04	
Dec 99	94.37	94.36	94.35	+ 0.03	1,410
Est. sales: 22,482. Prev. sales: 10,046					
Prev. open int.: 975,123 off 3,870					
3-MONTH PIBOR (MATIF) FF5 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	96.72	96.69	96.69	+0.00	69,223
Jun 97	96.71	96.67	96.69	+0.02	35,225
Sep 97	96.65	96.62	96.63	+0.01	26,978
Dec 97	96.56	96.54	96.55	+0.02	19,597
Mar 98	96.43	96.40	96.42	+0.02	15,048
Jun 98	96.23	96.20	96.21	+0.02	12,274
Sep 98	95.97	95.94	95.94	+0.01	11,223
Dec 98	95.67	95.65	95.65	+0.01	8,333
Mar 99	95.40	95.36	95.36	+0.01	11,154
Jun 99	95.08	95.08	95.08	+0.03	5,824
Sep 99	94.83	94.80	94.82	+0.05	2,256
Dec 99	94.57	94.57	94.57	+0.05	545
Est. volume: 14,087. Open int.: 217,489 up 1,383.					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	93.51	93.47	93.51	+ 0.05	94,082
Jun 97	93.95	93.86	93.92	+ 0.08	64,108
Sep 97	94.11	94.07	94.11	+ 0.08	29,702
Dec 97	94.12	94.08	94.12	+ 0.08	15,730
Mar 98	94.11	94.07	94.11	+ 0.08	12,074
Jun 98	N.T.	N.T.	94.05	+ 0.09	2,203
Est. sales: 11,924. Prev. sales: 5,819					
Prev. open int.: 207,899 up 32					
Industrials					
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 97	74.95	74.26	74.31	-0.76	22,846
May 97	76.25	75.55	75.60	-0.70	12,032
Jul 97	77.05	76.55	76.57	-0.73	7,717
Oct 97	76.90	76.80	76.85	-0.35	1,286
Dec 97	76.80	76.51	76.65	-0.32	9,800
Mar 98	77.70	77.50	77.53	-0.47	484
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 4,671					
Fri's open int 55,348 up 49					
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal- cents per gal					
Jan 97	71.40	70.10	70.50	-0.05	15,085
Feb 97	70.95	69.70	70.00	-0.13	36,348
Mar 97	69.25	68.10	68.10	-0.08	13,895
Apr 97	65.45	64.70	64.75	-0.03	8,329
May 97	62.35	62.00	62.10	+0.32	4,265
Jun 97	60.40	59.80	60.10	+0.37	4,967
Jul 97	59.40	59.00	59.08	+0.07	3,125
Aug 97	59.36	59.20	59.30	+0.32	3,204
Sep 97	59.50	59.20	59.50	+0.22	2,863
Dec 97	60.35	60.10	60.35	+0.27	3,782
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 28,692					
Fri's open int 102,310 off 710					
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
Feb 97	25.55	25.12	25.34	+0.12	101,197
Mar 97	24.90	24.45	24.66	+0.11	37,563
Apr 97	24.10	23.87	23.99	+0.10	23,802
May 97	23.47	22.25	23.43	+0.16	18,102
Jun 97	22.88	22.68	22.80	+0.12	27,836
Jul 97	22.30	22.20	22.25	+0.08	14,665
Aug 97	21.80	21.74	21.80	+0.09	13,208
Sep 97	21.36	21.32	21.36	+0.08	12,507
Oct 97	21.02	20.91	21.02	+0.14	8,672
Dec 97	20.39	20.33	20.37	+0.08	24,381
Jun 98	19.45	19.45	19.45	+0.10	12,163
Dec 98	18.80	18.80	18.80	-0.07	12,281
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 30,107					
Fri's open int 358,592 up 3570					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
Feb 97	2.820	2.630	2.677	-307	34,907
Mar 97	2.540	2.350	2.411	-269	19,013
Apr 97	2.270	2.130	2.166	-174	11,617
May 97	2.100	2.010	2.050	-92	8,431
Jun 97	2.080	2.000	2.020	-70	8,113
Jul 97	2.080	1.980	2.010	-75	7,189
Aug 97	2.070	2.010	2.025	-60	6,560
Sep 97	2.070	2.010	2.020	-70	6,259
Oct 97	2.080	2.040	2.040	-70	6,450
Nov 97	2.190	2.155	2.155	-50	3,713
Dec 97	2.280	2.250	2.250	-48	6,517
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 24,084					
Fri's open int 144,682 off 2051					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal- cents per gal					
Jan 97	70.40	68.85	69.61	-0.13	18,668
Feb 97	70.10	68.70	69.38	+0.02	27,056
Mar 97	69.50	68.25	69.03	+0.17	11,594
Apr 97	70.20	69.90	70.38	+0.13	5,263
May 97	69.80	69.30	69.73	+0.19	3,262
Jun 97	68.50	68.00	68.43	+0.24	2,393
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 16,667					
Fri's open int 65,034 up 596					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
Jan 97	223.00	219.00	223.00	+6.00	18,546
Feb 97	220.00	216.25	218.00	+2.50	21,312
Mar 97	211.50	208.50	210.00	+2.00	8,399
Apr 97	201.75	199.75	200.75	+1.50	6,762
May 97	194.00	193.75	194.25	+1.25	3,211
Jun 97	190.25	190.25	189.00	+1.25	7,453
Jul 97	N.T.	N.T.	186.75	+0.50	2,517
Aug 97	N.T.	N.T.	185.75	+0.25	890
Sept 97	185.00	185.00	+0.25		508
Oct 97	N.T.	N.T.	184.50	+0.25	841
Nov 97	185.00	185.00	Unch.		67
Est. sales: 12,123. Open int.: 72,670 off 902					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
Feb 97	23.97	23.55	23.69	+0.27	58,500
Mar 97	23.33	23.00	23.15	+0.34	35,237
Apr 97	22.72	22.57	22.57	+0.21	16,863
May 97	22.02	21.97	21.98	+0.19	11,026
June 97	21.49	21.40	21.39	+0.18	13,291
July 97	N.T.	N.T.	20.88	+0.16	9,914
Aug 97	20.45	20.45	20.43	+0.14	2,539
Sep 97	N.T.	N.T.	20.04	+0.08	4,895
Oct 97	N.T.	N.T.	19.68	+0.02	3,047
Est. sales: 19,132. Open int.: 161,235 up 611					
Stock Indexes					
S&P COMP. INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Mar 97	767.00	762.60	762.70	-1.90	184,748
Jun 97	773.70	769.40	770.00	-1.15	5,497
Sep 97	780.00	778.20	777.25	-0.75	1,457
Est. sales N.A. Fri's. sales 26,135					
Fri's open int 192,053 up 767					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Mar 97	4140.0	4104.0	4130.0	+ 31.0	53,307
Jun 97	N.T.	N.T.	4154.0	+ 33.0	2,594
Est. sales: 5,936. Prev. sales: 2,439					
Prev. open int.: 55,901 up 41					
CAC 40 (MATIF) FF200 per index point					
Dec 96	2321.0	2312.0	2319.0	+13.50	15,990
Jan 97	2325.0	2316.0	2323.5	+13.50	14,745
Feb 97	2327.0	2323.0	2328.0	+13.50	2,610
Mar 97	2336.5	2327.5	2334.0	+13.50	14,055
Jun 97	2298.0	2298.0	2297.0	+7.50	365
Sep 97	N.T.	N.T.	2306.5	+13.50	6,326
Mar 98	N.T.	N.T.	2342.0	+13.50	4,468
Sep 98	N.T.	N.T.	2318.5	+13.50	660
Est. volume: 29,075. Open int.: 58,819 off 379.					

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	1,436.80	1,429.50
Reuters	1,865.70	1,876.30
D.J. Futures	147.66	147.30
CRB	238.31	240.25

EUROPE

Aegon to Acquire U.S. Insurer

Dutch Firm Joins Global Top 10 With $3.5 Billion Deal

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

THE HAGUE — Aegon NV said Monday it had agreed to buy the insurance operations of Providian Corp. for $3.5 billion in stock and assumed debt, a transaction that would place the Dutch insurance company among the Top 10 global insurers.

The deal, which was approved by the boards of both companies over the weekend, would be the largest U.S. acquisition by a Dutch company and comes as insurers worldwide are combining with rivals to fend off banks and mutual-fund companies competing for consumers' savings.

Providian, a diversified financial company based in Louisville, Kentucky, said the deal would allow it to focus on its fast-growing consumer-lending and banking business. Its San Francisco-based banking unit, Providian Bancorp, will be spun off to shareholders just before the completion of the buyout, which is expected in the first half of next year.

Kees Storm, Aegon's chairman, said the purchase would add five percentage points to Aegon's earnings per share growth. Aegon is the Netherlands' second-biggest insurer, with a market share of 20 percent in group life insurance and 12 percent in individual life.

The deal includes a tax-free exchange of stock, with Providian shareholders receiving Aegon NV shares worth $2.62 billion, or $28 per Providian share, Aegon said.

Aegon USA, the U.S. arm of Aegon NV, will assume about $780 million of debt and $100 million of Monthly Income Preferred Stock, or MIPS, the company said. MIPS are preferred shares that pay monthly dividends.

Analysts applauded the transaction. "This is an incredibly big fish," said Lex van der Somme, a fund manager with ING Bank Vermogensbeheer, which owns 33 million guilders worth of Aegon stock and manages 1.5 billion guilders. "There are great integration advantages ahead in 1998 and 1999."

"It's a very good move," said Dick de Haan, an analyst at Gestion NV. "They will become more flexible and a more diversified company as a result of this move."

Aegon's share price climbed 10.9 guilders, to 110.10 ($63.07) on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange.

Providian's insurance operations will become part of the Dutch company's U.S. unit., bolstering its competitive positions against rival European insurers such as France's Axa SA, which owns 60 percent of Equitable Cos., and Switzerland's Zurich Insurance Group, which acquired Kemper Corp. two years ago.

Last month, Axa escalated the insurance industry's consolidation by announcing a $9.3 billion takeover of its larger French rival, Union des Assurances de Paris. The move follows Munich Re's acquisition of American Re Corp. for $4 billion earlier this year.

(Bloomberg, AP)

Russian Car Venture Sends Strong Signal To Domestic Rivals

Bloomberg Business News

YELABUGA, Russia — AO Yelaz's plans to assemble Chevrolet Blazers under its venture with General Motors Corp. will send a strong competitive signal to Russian carmakers, the industry ministry said Monday.

As Russia's first major automotive joint venture, AO Yelaz is aiming to make 50,000 Chevy Blazers a year by December 1997, the ministry said.

"The release of the Yelabuzhsky 'jeep' is a signal to our car manufacturers," the ministry said. "Attention: A new competitor has appeared — prove that you can produce nothing worse."

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia and Anatoli Chubais, the presidential chief of staff, attended the roll-out of the first Blazer from the Yelaz production line earlier this month.

Yelaz's venture to assemble Blazers from imported parts is in contrast to Russia's bigger carmakers, which are depending on high import tariffs to allow them to continue producing poor-quality cars at high prices.

General Motors has a 25 percent share in the AO Yelaz-General Motors venture, in exchange for $250 million of investment. The remaining 75 percent is split evenly between the government of Tatarstan, the majority shareholder in Yelaz, and the Russian government.

The Russian government contributed 120 billion rubles ($21.5 million) to the venture.

Under the agreement, the joint venture will introduce a new General Motors model every three years. The venture plans to produce 60 percent of its output domestically, reducing the imported component from the current 100 percent level.

"Without a doubt, at the beginning of our work we'll meet opposition from our giants Gaz and Vaz," said Industry Minister Yuri Bespalov, referring to AO Gaz, manufacturer of the Volga sedan and Gazelle utility truck, and AO Avtovaz, maker of the Lada sedan and Samara hatchback.

Avtovaz is currently battling with the government about payment of 11 trillion rubles of the carmaker's debt, of which 2.9 trillion rubles is in unpaid taxes. Earlier this month it said it would sell a 50 percent stake in the company to raise money to pay the tax bill.

Avtovaz has been producing the same Lada sedan for more than 20 years with little modification. It set up its manufacturing plant in the late 1960s with help from Fiat SpA of Italy.

Joint ventures such as Yelaz's will help modernize the Russian auto industry, Mr. Bespalov said.

"To keep producing the same model of car for decades is, to my mind, nonsense," he said. "And let them call a new automobile a 'screwdriver automobile' assembled from imported parts. The main thing is that it has appeared," he said.

The Yelaz carmaker is named for its manufacturing base in Yelabuga, 700 kilometers (437.5 miles) east of Moscow.

■ Lukoil Plans Global Issue

Russia's biggest oil company, Lukoil, plans to raise at least $1 billion through a global placement of its shares next year, Vice President Leonid Fedun said, Reuters reported from Moscow.

"The main task on the capital market next year is a global placement of more than 100 million shares," he said. "Given current prices, we expect that would exceed $1 billion."

Other issues and placements would raise $300 million, Mr. Fedun said.

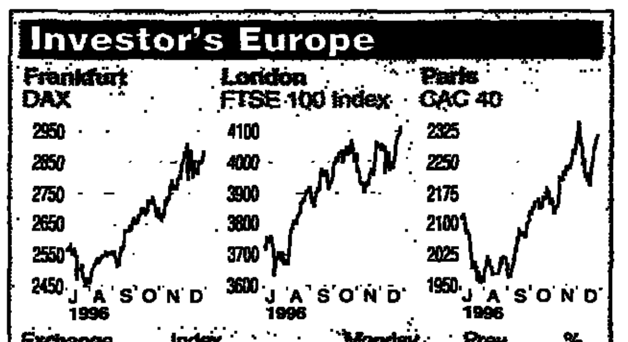
Mr. Fedun said Lukoil had virtually completed preparations for a London stock exchange share placement, which is expected in March or April.

Lukoil was one of the first Russian companies to issue level-one American Depositary Receipts and has already issued convertible bonds.

It also plans to issue ADRs on its preferred shares after the New Year holidays, he said.

By the end of 1997 it intends to issue level-three ADRs, which raise new capital on its ordinary stock.

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Monday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	648.24	639.09	+1.43
Brussels	BEL-20	1,895.49	1,893.27	+0.12
Frankfurt	DAX	2,888.69	2,852.88	+1.26
Copenhagen	Stock Market	N.A.	468.17	-
Helsinki	HEX General	2,495.93	2,481.97	+0.56
Oslo	OBX	532.58	528.88	+0.71
London	FTSE 100	4,115.70	4,091.80	+0.60
Madrid	Stock Exchange	443.42	440.51	+0.66
Milan	MIBTEL	10,592.00	10,501.00	+0.87
Paris	CAC 40	2,318.63	2,306.95	+0.51
Stockholm	SX 16	2,527.42	2,493.80	+1.35
Vienna	ATX	1,140.19	1,142.85	-0.23
Zurich	SPI	2,515.62	2,501.08	+0.58

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- AGIV AG has sold its 74 percent stake in **Wayss & Freytag AG**, a German construction company, to **Hollandsche Beton Groep NV** for 300 million guilders ($171.9 million).
- **The Bank of Spain** will withdraw several coins, including ones with General Franco's image, beginning Wednesday because of reform aimed at making coinage simpler.
- **Grundig AG**, a German electronics firm, said results would improve next year, even though it expected to post a loss.
- **Groupe des Assurances Nationales** refused to comment on a report that it would request up to 10 billion French francs ($1.9 billion) in new state aid before it could be privatized.
- **Sisu-Auto Oy**, Finland's state-owned automaker, said **Renault** might buy its truck business. *Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters*

Aznar Urges Labor Reform

Bloomberg Business News

MADRID — Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said Monday that Spain must reform its labor market to create more jobs.

In an interview with the daily El Mundo, Mr. Aznar said that labor laws must be changed to decrease the amount of temporary job contracts, create more opportunity for young people and to keep Spain competitive with its European counterparts.

Laws should be changed to address "the large amount of temporary and precarious work in Spain," he said. "A labor market reform must be oriented to stability."

Unions are currently negotiating with employers in an effort to reform Spain's labor laws. Unions want more indefinite job contracts, while employers want to reduce the cost of hiring and firing workers, so they will be less averse to give workers more long-term contracts. If the two sides cannot reach agreement by early spring, the government has indicated it will broker an agreement.

Unemployment in France Reaches a Record 12.7%

Reuters

PARIS — French unemployment hit a record 12.7 percent in November, resuming its steady rise after a surprise drop in October, and economists said Monday the number of jobless was likely to rise further.

The number of people unemployed rose by 20,700 in November, after a 12,000 decline in October, to reach 3,121,500, after adjustments for seasonal variations, the Labor Ministry said. In October, 12.6 percent of the work force was unemployed.

For the government of President Jacques Chirac, the unemployment figures make its pledge to cut unemployment ever harder to fulfill as France tries to rein in spending to meet the deficit criteria for joining the European single currency in 1999.

Economists said that although there were signs of recovery in the economy that would eventually arrest the rise in the number of jobless, there was no quick solution in sight.

"It's a bit disappointing as it reverses some of the surprise good news we had last time," Philippe Brossard, head of research at ABN Amro NV in Paris, said. "The economy is still moving up but it will be the end of spring before we see any impact on unemployment."

The national statistics institute, INSEE, forecast earlier this month that unemployment would peak at 13 percent in the first half of 1997 before starting to decline gradually.

David Brickman, European economist at Yamaichi International, was more pessimistic. "The economy has got to grow at a much faster rate than at the moment to generate falling unemployment," he said.

"Unemployment will probably peak around the third quarter next year but the risk is that it doesn't peak until much later. French labor laws are so rigid employers are not going to be encouraged to take on new labor."

Iain Lindsay, senior bond analyst at Credit Lyonnais, said the rise in the jobless total would make it all the harder to bring down the deficit in the social security system, which is financed mainly by payroll taxes.

France's social security system, which is expected to show a deficit of 29.7 billion francs ($5.65 billion) in 1997 after an expected deficit of 51.5 billion francs this year, is included in calculating the total public deficit for the European Union's Maastricht treaty criteria.

Schneider Charges Likely

Bloomberg Business News

FRANKFURT — German prosecutors said Monday they would probably present charges against Juergen Schneider this week, accusing him of fraud in connection with the 1994 collapse of his property group.

A press conference on the charges could be held Friday, said Job Tilmann, senior prosecuting attorney.

An attorney for Mr. Schneider, Stefan von Moers of the Munich firm Rueckel, Trenkner & Collegen, was not available for comment.

Mr. Schneider was extradited to Germany in February to face six counts of fraud in connection with allegations that he lied to Deutsche Bank AG and other German banks to obtain billions of marks in loans for real-estate projects.

He fled Germany in 1994, leaving about 6 billion Deutsche marks ($3.85 billion) in liabilities. He was arrested in Miami in May 1995 and fought extradition proceedings until January.

Deutsche Bank was owed 1.2 billion DM as Mr. Schneider's largest creditor. It wrote off 500 million DM in 1994 because of Mr. Schneider.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Monday, Dec. 30

Prices in local currencies.

Telekurs

Amsterdam

EOE Index: 648.24 Previous: 639.09

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	113.40	112	112.40	111.50
Aegon	112.30	105.20	110.10	99.20
Ahold	108.30	107.60	108	108
Akzo Nobel	237	235	236	234.60
Baan Co.	62.60	60.20	60.80	58.70
Bols Wess cva	31.80	31.50	31.80	31.70
CSM cva	96.20	95.20	96	95.40
Dordtsche Pet	324.50	318.80	324.50	319
DSM	170.70	169.50	170.40	169.20
Elsevier	29.30	28.90	29.20	29.10
Fortis Amev	60.90	59.70	60.50	59.70
Getronics	46.90	46.50	46.90	46.80
G-Broc cva	54.50	53.40	53.90	53.40
Hagemeyer	139	136.80	138.10	136.70
Heineken	308.20	303.50	305.80	303.20
Hoogovens cva	72.20	71.80	72	71.90
Hunt Douglas	116.90	115.70	116.50	116
ING Group	62.20	61.20	62.20	61.30
KLM	48.90	48.10	48.60	48.80
KNP BT	38	37.20	37.70	36.80
KPN	66	65.10	65.90	65.60
Nedlloyd Gp.	47.40	46.80	47.40	46.70
Nutricia	263	260.20	262.50	262
Oce Grinten	188.30	186	187.60	186.50
Philips Elec	70.30	69.30	70	70
Polygram	88.50	85.80	88	85.50
Randstad Hdg	126	123	124.80	124.60
Robeco	144.50	143.40	144.50	142.60
Rodamco	50	49.70	50	49.80
Rolinco	150	149.50	150	148.50
Rorento	106.30	105.90	106.30	105.70
Royal Dutch	303.20	300.90	302.90	301.20
Unilever cva	305.70	303	305.60	303.20
Vendex Intl	73.90	72.50	73.90	72.60
VNU	36.10	35.30	36.10	35.20
Wolters Kl cva	230.50	228.40	229.50	229.50

Bangkok

SET Index: 831.57 Previous: 835.71

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	234	218	218	236
Bangkok Bk F	254	248	248	250
Krung Thai Bk	51.50	49.50	50	51.50
PTT Explor	376	360	370	390
Siam Cement F	804	784	804	792
Siam Com Bk F	187	183	186	187
Telecomasia	54	52	53.50	54
Thai Airways	38	37.25	37.25	37.50
Thai Farm Bk F	164	159	160	158
Utd Comm	174	170	174	167

Markets Closed

The Bombay, Jakarta, Manila, and Seoul stock markets were closed Monday for a holiday.

Brussels

BEL-20 Index: 1895.49 Previous: 1893.27

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Almanij	10475	10400	10400	10475
Barco Ind	5510	5430	5480	5500
BBL	6770	6720	6730	6750
Bekaert	20400	19825	20150	19700
CBR	2905	2870	2885	2835
CNP	2000	2000	2000	2000
Cobepa	1206	1196	1206	1206
Cockerill	120	116	118	116
Colruyt	14725	14525	14550	14600
Delhaize Lion	1900	1875	1885	1885
Electrabel	7600	7510	7510	7570
Electrafina	3015	2995	3015	3085
Fortis AG	5190	5030	5090	5050
Gevaert	2200	2100	2200	2150
GIB	1428	1414	1422	1434
GBL	4095	4070	4085	4065
Gen Banque	11450	11350	11375	11475
Kredietbank	10500	10200	10400	10380
Petrofina	10250	10180	10100	10200
Powerfin	4850	4750	4850	4795
Royale Belge	6600	6530	6550	6580
Sec Gen Belg	2510	2480	2490	2470
Solvay	19550	19400	19425	19550
Tractebel	14775	14675	14775	14750
UCB	84750	82500	82700	82100
Union Miniere	2145	2120	2150	2125

Copenhagen

Stock Index: N.A. Previous: 468.17

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
BG Bank	281	274	276	275
Carlsberg B	398	388	398	391
Codan Fors	798	770	780	790
Danisco	368	352.60	368	357
Den Danske Bk	475	467	475	466
D/S Svendborg B	229000	214000	228000	218500
D/S 1912 B	153000	149775	153500	150000
FLS Ind B	756	748.00	755	750
Kob Lufthavne	606	599	600	605
Novo Nordisk B	1116	1090	1116	1070
Sophus Ber B	766	754	758	754
Tele Danmark B	325	322	325	327
Tryg Baltica	301.50	295	300	300
Unidanmark A	307	304	305	305

Frankfurt

DAX: 2888.69 Previous: 2852.88

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB B	1000	1000	1000	985
Adidas	139	132	133	138.20
Allianz Hdg	2800	2763	2800	2763
Altana	1199.80	1198	1198	1199
Bk Berlin	28	27.80	28	28.10
BASF	59.28	58.40	59.28	58.99
Bayer Hypo Bk	46.55	46	46.55	45.90
Bay.Vereinsbank	63.20	62.20	63.20	62.55
Bayer	62.98	62.06	62.80	61.55
Beiersdorf	76.30	75	76.10	74.60
BMW	1073	1058.50	1073	1052
Commerzbank	39.15	38.85	39.10	38.85
Daimler Benz	106	104.90	106	103.65
Degussa	700	685	696.50	683
Deutsche Bank	72.20	71.40	71.90	71.65
Deut Telekom	32.48	32	32.45	32.29
Dresdner Bank	46.10	45.60	46.10	45.50
Fresenius	310	308.50	310	309.50
Fresenius Med	132.70	130	131.70	129
Fried. Krupp	251	249	249	246.50
Gehe	99	98.10	98.50	96
Heidelbg Zmt	124.50	123	124.50	123
Henkel pfd	77.30	75.40	77.20	74.25
Hochtief	61	58.75	61	58.90
Hoechst	72.70	70.80	72.70	70.95
Karstadt	520	508	520	515
Linde	940	924	940	923
Lufthansa	21	20.65	21	20.70
MAN	373	366.50	373	366.50
Mannesmann	667	662	667	656.50
Metallgesellschaft	31.50	31.42	31.50	31.50
Metro	124	120.50	124	120.50
Munch Rueck R	3845	3725	3845	3765
Preussag	349	344	348.50	340
RWE	65.20	64.40	65.20	64.75
SAP pfd	211	208	209.50	213
Schering	129.90	129	129.90	129
Siemens	72.50	71.42	72.50	71.80
Thyssen	273	271.50	273	272.50
Veba	89.30	88.20	89	89.05
VEW	495	495	495	504
Viag	605.50	601.50	604	604
Volkswagen	641	634	640	637

Helsinki

HEX General Index: 2495.93 Previous: 2481.97

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cultor 1	251	250	250	250
Enso A	36.90	36.50	36.90	36.30
Huhtamaki I	216	213	214	213
Kemira	58.70	57.50	58	58
Kesko	65	64.60	64.90	64.90
Merita A	14.50	14.30	14.30	14.40
Metra B	259	256	258	257
Metsa-Serla B	34.80	34.30	34.50	35
Neste	112	111	112	112
Nokia A	267	265	266.80	265.90
Orion-Yhtymae	179	176.50	177	174
Outokumpu A	78.50	77.60	78.50	77.60
Rautaruukki	43	42.40	42.50	42.50
Sampo Insur	365	350	363	364
UPMKymmene	96.80	95	96.50	95
Valmet	81.40	80.30	81	80.90

Hong Kong

Hang Seng: 13480.75 Previous: 13484.14

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	11.30	11.20	11.30	11.25
Bk East Asia	34.50	34.10	34.40	34.30
Cathay Pacific	12.20	11.85	11.95	12.05
Cheung Kong	70	68	69	69.50
CK Infrastruct	20.30	19.60	20	19.70
China Light	34.20	33.30	34	33.40
China Overs Ld	3.75	3.55	3.73	3.58
China Res Ent	16.85	15.60	16.80	15.50
Chin Estates	8.85	8.65	8.70	8.80
Citic Pacific	46.30	43.60	45.60	43.50
Cons Elec Pwr	18.15	18.10	18.15	18.15
Cosco Pacific	8.90	8.35	8.75	8.30
Dao Heng Bk	36.70	36.40	36.70	36.10
First Pacific	10.30	9.85	10	9.80
Great Eagle	32.60	32.30	32.30	32.80
Guangdong Inv	6.95	6.50	6.80	6.50
Guoco Group	43.40	42.80	43.30	42.90
Hang Lung Dev	17.10	16.60	16.85	17
Hang Seng Bk	95	93	94.75	92.25
Henderson Inv	9.30	9.15	9.20	9.30
Henderson Ld	77.75	75.50	77.75	76.25
HKR Intl	12.95	12.35	12.90	12.35
HK China Gas	15.05	14.50	14.95	15
HK Electric	25.80	25.30	25.45	25.75
HK Shang Htls	14.70	14.30	14.70	14.70
HK Telecomm	12.70	12.20	12.45	12.60
Hopewell Hdgs	5	4.83	4.93	5
HSBC Hdgs	166	164	166	164
Hutchison Wh	61.75	60	60	61.75
Hysan Dev	31	29.80	30.90	29.80
Johnson El Hdg	21.60	21.40	21.60	21.60
Kerry Props	21.30	21	21	21.25
Natl Mutual	7.30	7.25	7.30	7.45
New World Dev	53.75	51.75	53	51.75
N World Infrastr	22.50	21.95	22.35	21.95
Oriental Press	3.70	3.53	3.58	3.70
Pearl Oriental	4.75	4.60	4.75	4.70
Shanghai Indus	28.75	27.30	28.55	27.15
Shangri-La Asia	11.40	11.30	11.30	11.45
SHK Props	96.25	94	95.50	95.75
Shun Tak Hdgs	5.20	5.05	5.10	5.20
Sino Land Co.	9.50	9.35	9.50	9.50
Sth China Post	6.40	6.15	6.30	6.40
Swire Pac A	75	73.25	74.50	73.75
Tsim Sha Tsui	15.45	15	15.40	15.30
TV Broadcasts	30.50	30	30.20	30.50
Wharf Hdgs	39.70	38.60	39.10	39.40
Wheelock	22.45	21.95	22.35	22.15

Johannesburg

All Market: 6628.28 Previous: 6583.10

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amalgamtd Bks	24.50	24.10	24.50	24
AngloAm Coal	340	338	340	336
AngloAm Corp	256	255	256	255.50
AngloAm Gold	358	353	355	352
AngloAm Ind	169.75	169.50	169.50	169.75
Barlow	41.70	41.30	41.70	41.25
C.G. Smith	22.85	22.45	22.85	22.35
De Beers	135	134.25	134.25	134.75
Driefontein	49	48.50	49	49
Fst Natl Bk	23.20	23.10	23.20	23
Gencor	17.05	17	17	16.95
GFSA	126	125.75	125.75	126
Iscor	3.34	3.32	3.34	3.32
Liberty Hdgs	318	318	318	316
Liberty Life	117.50	116.75	117	116.50
Minorco	98	96.75	98	96.75
Nampak	18.35	18.10	18.35	18
Nedcor	65	64.75	65	64.75
Rembrandt Gp	41.90	41.50	41.85	41.50
Richemont	65.50	65	65	65.25
Rust Platinum	64.50	64	64	64.50
SA Breweries	119	116	119	115
Samancor	54.75	54.75	54.75	54.75
Sasol	55.75	55.25	55.50	55.25
SBIC	181.50	180	181.50	178
Tiger Oats	64.25	64	64	63.50

Kuala Lumpur

Composite: 1214.89 Previous: 1209.88

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Genting	17.50	17.20	17.50	17.20
Mal Banking	27.25	26.75	27.25	27
Mal Intl Ship F	7.35	7.20	7.30	7.25
Petronas Gas	10.10	10	10	10
Renong	4.46	4.40	4.44	4.42
Resorts World	11.70	11.50	11.60	11.70
Sime Darby	9.95	9.75	9.80	9.95
Telekom Mal	22.50	22.30	22.50	22.40
Tenaga	11.70	11.50	11.60	11.60
Utd Engineers	23.10	21.90	22.70	21.90

London

FT-SE 100: 4115.70 Previous: 4091.80

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	7.93	7.60	7.64	7.61
Allied Domecq	4.64	4.48	4.56	4.53
Anglian Water	5.88	5.71	5.79	5.73
Argos	7.77	7.70	7.73	7.72
Asda Group	1.24	1.21	1.23	1.22
Assoc Br Foods	4.82	4.78	4.82	4.78
BAA	4.90	4.82	4.83	4.86
Barclays	10.02	9.95	10.01	9.97
Bass	8.38	8.10	8.15	8.12
BAT Ind	4.82	4.39	4.80	4.75
Bank Scotland	3.10	3.06	3.07	3.07
Blue Circle	3.58	3.50	3.58	3.55
BOC Group	8.80	8.71	8.79	8.73
Boots	6.05	6	6.03	6
BPB Ind	3.91	3.83	3.83	3.91
Brit Aerosp	12.77	12.25	12.74	12.25
Brit Airways	6.07	6.01	6.04	6.02
Brit Gas	2.28	2.25	2.26	2.25
Brit Land	5.22	5.14	5.18	5.22
Brit Petm	7.03	6.93	6.99	6.95
BSkyB	5.27	5.20	5.23	5.22
Brit Steel	1.63	1.60	1.61	1.62
Brit Telecom	4.10	3.90	3.98	4.05
BTR	2.82	2.75	2.78	2.75
Burmah Castrol	11	10.76	10.92	10.93
Burton Gp	1.57	1.54	1.56	1.54
Cable Wireless	4.90	4.80	4.80	4.82
Cadbury Schw	4.90	4.86	4.88	4.86
Carlton Comm	5.12	5.03	5.09	5.07
Coml Union	6.97	6.81	6.84	6.84
Compass Gp	6.19	6.12	6.15	6.14
Courtaulds	4	3.93	3.93	3.95
Dixons	5.34	5.27	5.31	5.30
Electrocomponents	4.64	4.60	4.64	4.64
EMI Group	13.75	12.63	13.74	13.63
Enterprise Oil	6.39	6.30	6.38	6.35
Fam Colonial	1.51	1.47	1.50	1.51
Genl Accident	7.80	7.64	7.70	7.73
GEC	3.88	3.79	3.84	3.80
GKN	10.02	9.80	10	9.82
Glaxo Wellcome	9.49	9.36	9.49	9.40
Granada Gp	8.65	8.58	8.60	8.62
Grand Met	4.59	4.51	4.59	4.53
GRE	2.85	2.77	2.79	2.79
Greenalls Gp	5.89	5.81	5.86	5.82
Guinness	4.57	4.50	4.54	4.52
GUS	6.13	6.05	6.07	6.03
Hanson	0.83	0.81	0.81	0.81
Hays	5.59	5.53	5.56	5.52
HSBC Hldgs	12.79	12.68	12.78	12.64
ICI	7.84	7.70	7.73	7.79
Impl Tobacco	3.86	3.77	3.79	3.80
Kingfisher	6.28	6.19	6.26	6.28
Ladbroke	2.32	2.27	2.28	2.30
Land Sec	7.50	7.40	7.50	7.48
Lasmo	2.42	2.35	2.38	2.38
Legal Genl Grp	3.72	3.67	3.70	3.65
Lloyds TSB Gp	4.33	4.28	4.30	4.29
LucasVarity	2.29	2.23	2.25	2.26
Marks Spencer	4.88	4.83	4.86	4.82
MEPC	4.35	4.32	4.34	4.33
Mercury Asset	12.42	12.27	12.40	12.29
National Grid	1.95	1.88	1.95	1.89
Natl Power	4.90	4.83	4.85	4.84
NatWest	7.50	6.80	6.83	6.83
Next	5.67	5.56	5.61	5.54
Orange	1.89	1.84	1.86	1.86
P&O	5.92	5.85	5.86	5.88
Pearson	7.50	7.17	7.44	7.17
Pilkington	1.60	1.52	1.58	1.52
PowerGen	5.78	5.70	5.73	5.77
Premier Farnell	7.52	7.47	7.49	7.49
Prudential	4.98	4.91	4.93	4.93
Railtrack PP	3.90	3.80	3.88	3.81
Rank Group	4.35	4.27	4.34	4.27
Reckitt Colm	7.22	7.15	7.20	7.18
Redland	3.62	3.55	3.62	3.56
Reed Intl	11.04	10.91	11.04	10.97
Rentokil Initial	4.41	4.37	4.39	4.38
Reuters Hdgs	7.55	7.45	7.52	7.47
Rexam	3.61	3.50	3.61	3.54
RMC Group	9.97	9.87	9.93	9.87
Rolls Royce	2.58	2.55	2.57	2.56
Royal Bk Scot	5.77	5.54	5.61	5.54
RTZ reg	9.52	9.43	9.47	9.42
Royal & Sun All	4.46	4.40	4.44	4.40
Safeway	4.05	4.02	4.05	4.03
Sainsbury	3.85	3.76	3.83	3.77
Schroders	15.25	15.10	15.23	15.25
Scot Newcastle	6.88	6.83	6.88	6.83
Scot Power	3.48	3.42	3.47	3.42
Securicor	2.82	2.78	2.80	2.81
Severn Trent	6.85	6.65	6.72	6.88
Shell Transp R	10.15	9.98	10.15	9.97
Siebe	10.72	10.55	10.67	10.60
Smith Nephew	1.82	1.81	1.82	1.82
SmithKline	8.12	8.08	8.12	8.11
Smiths Ind	8.03	7.88	8	7.87
Sthern Elec	7.98	7.87	7.98	7.79
Stagecoach	7.04	6.92	6.98	6.93
Stand Charter	7.24	7.16	7.17	7.14
Tate & Lyle	4.73	4.70	4.72	4.73
Tesco	3.55	3.50	3.53	3.52
Thames Water	6.16	6.03	6.06	6.07
3i Group	4.90	4.85	4.90	4.85
TI Group	5.84	5.70	5.78	5.71
Tomkins	2.75	2.65	2.72	2.67
Unilever	14.30	14.11	14.11	14.26
Utd Assurance	4.78	4.72	4.78	4.75
Utd News	6.97	6.92	6.94	6.94
Utd Utilities	6.22	6.03	6.17	6.07
Vendome Lx uts	5.35	5.30	5.34	5.33
Vodafone	2.48	2.44	2.48	2.49
Whitbread	7.86	7.79	7.86	7.81
Williams Hdgs	3.50	3.43	3.43	3.48
Wolseley	4.65	4.56	4.63	4.60
WPP Group	2.53	2.48	2.51	2.47
Zeneca	16.53	16.38	16.43	16.47

Madrid

Bolsa index: 443.42 Previous: 440.51

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	19150	18750	18770	18900
ACESA	1825	1785	1815	1810
Aguas Barcelona	5410	5320	5350	5280
Argentaria	5770	5700	5750	5750
BBV	7060	6990	7000	7000
Banesto	1055	1000	1035	983
Bankinter	20390	19920	20290	20080
Bco Central Hisp	3340	3280	3340	3250
Bco Exterior	2800	2765	2770	2770
Bco Popular	25680	25540	25600	25700
Bco Santander	8228	8120	8200	8200
CEPSA	3970	3900	3935	3950
Continente	2660	2610	2655	2600
Corp Mapfre	7870	7710	7850	7790
Endesa	9100	9000	9040	9000
FECSA	1298	1265	1290	1255
Gas Natural	30740	30030	30520	30330
Iberdrola	1875	1850	1860	1850
Pryca	2745	2695	2725	2705
Repsol	5040	4990	5000	5030
Sevillana Elec	1450	1385	1435	1385
Tabacalera	5610	5550	5570	5550
Telefonica	3030	3000	3030	3005
Union Fenosa	1330	1255	1330	1260
Valenc Cement	1415	1375	1415	1400

Mexico

Bolsa index: 3346.95 Previous: 3327.20

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	36.50	36.20	36.40	36.35
Banacci B	16.60	16.42	16.50	16.48
Cemex CPO	28.40	28.00	28.40	28.00
Cifra C	9.76	9.68	9.68	9.76
Emp Modema	38.50	38.40	38.40	38.50
Gpo Carso A1	41.50	41.25	41.40	41.25
Gpo Fin Inbursa	26.90	26.90	26.90	26.90
Kimb Clark Mex	153.00	151.80	153.00	151.80
Televisa CPO	181.20	181.00	181.10	181.00
TelMex L	12.94	12.86	12.90	12.72

Milan

MIB Telematico: 10592.00 Previous: 10501.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	10695	10500	10555	10420
Bca Comm Ital	2800	2755	2800	2775
Bca Fideuram	3345	3295	3335	3380
Bca di Roma	1249	1216	1226	1224
Benetton	18900	18495	18895	18550
Credito Italiano	1697	1671	1694	1670
Edison	9595	9380	9595	9430
ENI	7975	7875	7900	7950
Fiat	4380	4255	4340	4235
Generali Assic	29250	28700	29000	28900
IMI	13050	12940	13050	13050
INA	1990	1970	1987	1970
Italgas	6400	6310	6370	6320
Mediaset	7150	7010	7145	7000
Mediobanca	8230	8115	8170	8125
Montedison	1037	1024	1030	1030
Parmalat	2345	2300	2345	2300
Pirelli	2825	2800	2810	2800
RAS	14250	14075	14230	14180
Rolo Banca	14950	14800	14880	14850
S Paolo Torino	9420	9210	9410	9260
Stet	6945	6860	6920	6845
Telecom Italia	4050	3915	4000	3925
TIM	3880	3810	3845	3805

Montreal

Industrials index: 2791.92 Previous: 2763.11

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bce Mob Com	40.60	40.60	40.60	40½
Cdn Tire A	22¼	22.45	22.60	22.10
Cdn Util A	30½	30.20	30½	30.15
CT Finl Svc	33	31.70	31.70	33
Gaz Metro	17⅝	17	17⅝	17.05
Gt-West Lifeco	21¾	21⅛	21¼	20¾
Hees Intl Bcp	20½	20¼	20½	20.30
Imasco	34.60	33.40	33¾	33½
Investors Grp	28	27	28	27
Loblaw Cos	14⅝	14.30	14.40	14⅛
Natl Bk Canada	14	13.65	13.95	13.70
Power Corp	27½	27	27½	27
Power Finl	49.10	49	49	49
Quebecor B	23	22.95	22.95	22.95
Rogers Comm B	9.85	9.70	9.70	9.65
Royal Bk Cda	48⅛	47.85	48.45	47.60

Oslo

OBX Index: 532.58 Previous: 528.88

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	142	141	142	138
Bergesen Dy B	155	152	152	154
Christiania Bk	20.30	20.20	20.20	20.20
Den norske Bk	24.60	24.40	24.40	24.50
SAS Norge ASA	69	67.50	69	67.50
Dyno Indust	163	162	162	165
Elkem	106.50	104	105.50	105.50
Hafslund A	47	46.00	47	47
Kvaerner	313	307	310.50	305.50
Leif Hoegh	135	130	135	126
Norsk Hydro	347	334.50	345	340
Norske Skog A	219.50	213	213	215
Orkla	452	438	445	437
Rieber B	187	184	184	183.50
Saga Petm B	100	98.50	100	99
Schibsted	118	117	117.50	117
Storebrand	37.40	37	37	36.80

Paris

CAC-40: 2318.63 Previous: 2306.95

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	640	629	638	624
AGF	168.50	160	168.50	160.40
Air Liquide	820	806	815	820
Alcatel Alsth	427.60	421.60	425	421
Axa	331.20	328.60	330	329.20
Bancaire	625	605	622	602
BNP	201.90	200	200.50	201.50
Bouygues	544	529	540	528
Canal Plus	1158	1146	1153	1149
Carrefour	3447	3366	3383	3400
CCF	245	238.80	239.90	242.70
Credit Local cl	446.90	443.10	446.90	444.80
Credit Lyon PC	135	132	133	136.80
Crown Cork Seal	300	280	282	280
Danone	727	723	725	723
Elf-Aquitaine	476.50	472.50	475	474.70
Eridania BS	833	825	832	826
Euro Disney	10.20	9.95	10.10	10.10
Eurotunnel uts	7.30	6.95	7.05	6.95
Gen. Eaux	642	637	640	635
Havas	364.90	359.10	363.90	363.40
Lafarge Cop	315.50	309	311	314.50
Legrand	901	880	890	893
L'Oreal	1966	1941	1954	1932
LVMH	1455	1427	1455	1422
Lyon. Eaux	472.90	463.60	472.80	464
Michelin B	278	272.50	278	274
Navig Mixte	782	780	782	786
Paribas A	344.50	341.40	344.50	342.60
Pechiney SA	214	206.50	210.30	209.60
Pernod Ricard	287	284.10	285	284.70
Peugeot Cit	595	575	584	592
Pinault-Print	2080	2052	2065	2060
Promodes	1474	1450	1470	1450
Renault	114.30	110.10	112.60	111
Rh-Poulenc A	179	176.10	177.50	178
Roussel-Uclaf	1528	1527	1527	1527
Sanofi	521	512	514	510
Schneider	237.90	235.80	237.90	235.50
Ste Generale	573	562	570	567
St Gobain	745	736	741	738
St Louis	1305	1280	1289	1270
Suez	220.50	219.20	220.40	219.20
Thomson CSF	169.80	167	167	168.40
Total B	422	419.50	421.10	420.80
UAP	130.80	128.20	130	130
Valeo	321	317.90	321	321

São Paulo

Bovespa index: 70399.50 Previous: 70068.50

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bco Brasil Pfd	9.20	8.90	9.00	9.08
Banespa Pfd	5.20	5.00	5.00	4.95
Bradesco Pfd	7.62	7.51	7.53	7.54
Brahma Pfd	569.00	565.00	568.00	565.00
Cemig Pfd	35.60	34.50	35.40	34.40
CESP Pfd	40.99	40.51	40.51	40.98
Eletrobras B	384.00	382.00	382.00	384.00
Itaubanco Pfd	450.00	445.00	450.00	444.99
Light	369.00	365.00	369.00	367.01
Paranapan Pfd	11.15	10.99	11.15	11.05
Petrobras Pfd	167.00	164.50	166.00	164.50
Sid Nacional	29.50	28.60	29.50	28.60
Souza Cruz	6.86	6.82	6.82	6.90
Telebras Pfd	80.40	79.80	80.00	79.85
Telesp Pfd	226.00	225.00	225.00	225.00
Usiminas Pfd	1.06	1.05	1.06	1.06
CVRD Pfd	20.35	20.00	20.00	20.20

Singapore

Straits Times: 2218.45 Previous: 2202.40

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cerebos Pac	10.70	10.40	10.60	10.40
City Devlts	12.50	12.20	12.40	12.10
Cycle Carriage	17.30	16.90	17.20	17
Dairy Farm Intl *	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.81
DBS	9	8.90	8.90	8.95
DBS Land	5.15	5.05	5.15	5.10
Fraser & Neave	14.50	14.20	14.30	14.30
HK Land *	2.80	2.78	2.80	2.76
Hong Leong Fin	3.26	3.26	3.26	3.26
Jard Matheson *	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.50
Jard Strategic *	3.80	3.76	3.80	3.78
Keppel	11.10	10.80	11.10	10.90
Natsteel	3.18	3.14	3.18	3.16
Neptune Orient	1.20	1.19	1.19	1.20
OCBC foreign	17.40	16.90	17.40	16.90
OSea Union Bk	6.40	6.35	6.40	6.40
Sembawang	7.40	7.30	7.40	7.35
Sing Airlines F	12.70	12.60	12.60	12.80
Sing Petm	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	1.73
Sing Press F	27.50	27	27.50	26.80
ST Auto F	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
ST Ship	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.87
Sing Telecomm	3.30	3.18	3.28	3.22
Straits Steam	4.44	4.38	4.42	4.40
Utd Industrial	1.18	1.17	1.17	1.19
Utd OSea Bk F	16.10	15.60	15.60	15.70
Wing Tai Hdgs	3.96	3.86	3.96	3.88

*: in U.S. dollars.

Stockholm

SX 16 index: 2527.42 Previous: 2493.80

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA BF	102.50	101.50	102	101.50
ABB AF	780	770	770	773
AssiDoman F	190.50	189	190	189.50
Astra AF	337.50	329	337	328
Atlas Copco AF	165.50	163.50	165	165.50
Avesta F	75	73	73.50	73.50
Electrolux BF	397	393	396	397.50
Ericsson BF	212	207	211	208.50
Hennes BF	948	930	944	940
Incentive AF	500	490	495	491
Investor BF	302	298	301.50	298
Kinnevik BF	189.50	187	188	198
MoDo BF	193	190	192	189
Pharm/Upjohn	281	273.50	279.50	275
Sandvik BF	187	184	185	183
SCA BF	139	137	138.50	138
S-E Banken AF	70	68.50	70	69
Skandia Fors F	194	190	193	190.50
Skanska BF	302	298	301.50	298
SKF BF	161.50	158	161.50	158
SSAB BF	114.50	113	114	113.50
Stora AF	94	91.50	94	93
Sv Handles AF	199	195	196	198
Sydkraft AF	150	146	148	146
Trelleborg BF	90.50	88.50	90.50	88.50
Volvo BF	151	147	150.50	147.50

Sydney

All Ordinaries: 2412.90 Previous: 2395.60

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	8.18	8.05	8.10	8.10
ANZ Bking	7.85	7.77	7.83	7.76
BHP	17.84	17.60	17.80	17.55
Boral	3.63	3.57	3.60	3.56
Brambles Ind.	24.40	24.01	24.20	24.04
Burns Philp	2.22	2.18	2.19	2.20
CBA	12.07	12.03	12.03	12.02
CC Amatil	13.63	13.50	13.58	13.49
Coles Myer	5.25	5.20	5.20	5.21
Comalco	6.40	6.28	6.40	6.25
CRA Ltd	20	19.71	19.90	19.65
CSR	4.36	4.30	4.32	4.30
Fosters Brew	2.60	2.58	2.59	2.58
GIO Australia	3.26	3.23	3.24	3.25
Goodman Fld	1.58	1.55	1.58	1.55
ICI Australia	13.85	13.40	13.80	13.40
John Fairfax	2.86	2.82	2.85	2.82
Lend Lease	24.55	24	24.50	24.05
Mayne Nickless	8.60	8.55	8.57	8.55
MIM Hdgs	1.79	1.75	1.76	1.79
Natl Aust Bank	14.66	14.55	14.63	14.53
News Corp	6.56	6.50	6.52	6.54
North Ltd	3.73	3.66	3.67	3.65
Pacific Dunlop	3.20	3.15	3.19	3.15
Pioneer Intl	3.76	3.70	3.75	3.70
Placer Pacific	1.88	1.85	1.86	1.87
Santos	5.20	5.12	5.18	5.12
Southcorp	3.97	3.87	3.96	3.87
Wesfarmers	8.75	8.65	8.75	8.60
Wstrn Mining	8.86	7.99	8.06	7.97
Westfield Trt	2.40	2.37	2.37	2.39
Westpac Bkng	7.16	7.07	7.15	7.04
Woodside Pet	9.20	9.03	9.14	9.03
Woolworths	3.04	3.01	3.02	3.02

Taipei

Stock Market index: 6726.27 Previous: 6903.98

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Cement	50.50	50	50.50	50.50
Cathay Life Ins	176	173	174	173
Chang Hwa Bk	158	155	156	155
China Steel	25.80	25.60	25.60	25.60
China Trust	52.50	51.50	52	52
Evergreen	55	53	55	53.50
Far East Text	28.30	27.90	28	27.90
First Bank	167	165	166	165
Formosa CF	43	42	42.40	42
Hua Nan Bk	130.50	128.50	129	128.50
Hualon Teijran	24.90	24.50	24.70	24.60
ICBC	85.50	83.50	84.50	83.50
President Ent	42.90	42	42.50	42
Taiwan Ceml	60.50	58.50	59	60
Tatung	54	53	53	53.50

Tokyo

Nikkei 225: 19361.35 Previous: 19349.04

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1180	1160	1180	1160
All Nippon Air	876	868	874	875
Asahi Bank	1030	995	1030	995
Asahi Chem	657	642	656	642
Asahi Glass	1090	1070	1090	1070
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	2150	2100	2150	2120
Bk Yokohama	750	720	750	733
Bridgestone	2200	2180	2200	2190
Canon	2580	2550	2560	2580
Chiba Bank	790	772	790	780
Chubu Elec	2320	2300	2300	2320
Chugoku Elec	2300	2260	2260	2300
Daiei	890	881	885	885
Daiichi Kang	1690	1660	1670	1690
Daiwa Bank	610	601	605	610
Daiwa House	1490	1450	1490	1480
Daiwa Sec	1030	1020	1030	1010
Denso	2790	2730	2790	2770
Fanuc	3710	3610	3710	3600
Fuji Bank	1690	1660	1690	1660
Fuji Photo	3830	3770	3820	3820
Fujitsu	1090	1080	1080	1090
Hitachi	1080	1060	1080	1060
Honda Motor	3350	3310	3310	3250
IBJ	2010	1980	2010	1990
IHI	520	509	515	500
Itochu	622	608	622	610
Ito-Yokado	5050	4990	5040	5030
JAL	615	610	615	609
Jusco	3930	3850	3930	3870
Kajima	828	790	828	800
Kansai Elec	2400	2350	2400	2370
Kao	1350	1330	1350	1340
Kawa Steel	333	318	333	317
KDD	7990	7940	7980	7940
Kinki Nipp Ry	725	719	723	719
Kirin Brewery	1170	1140	1140	1150
Kobe Steel	245	240	244	235
Komatsu	950	910	950	951
Kubota	560	547	559	542
Kyocera	7220	7140	7220	7140
Kyushu Elec	2260	2240	2250	2260
LTCB	638	627	627	634
Marubeni	498	492	498	492
Marui	2090	2050	2090	2070
Matsu Elec Ind	1890	1860	1890	1880
Matsu Elec Wk	1000	991	997	1010
Mitsubishi	1200	1170	1200	1180
Mitsubishi Ch	375	364	375	367
Mitsubishi El	690	677	690	682
Mitsubishi Est	1230	1190	1190	1210
Mitsubishi Hvy	920	912	920	917
Mitsubishi Mat	847	841	845	847
Mitsubishi Tr	1570	1550	1550	1600
Mitsui	946	928	940	937
Mitsui Fudosn	1160	1120	1160	1140
Mitsui Trust	905	878	905	891
Murata Mfg	3830	3800	3800	3850
NEC	1410	1380	1400	1400
Nikko Sec	870	855	864	880
Nintendo	8310	8240	8250	8350
Nipp Credit Bk	305	300	305	304
Nipp Express	794	780	794	779
Nippon Oil	595	586	595	590
Nippon Paper	550	535	540	545
Nippon Steel	342	331	342	337
Nippon Yusen	524	516	524	518
Nissan Motor	683	672	672	671
NKK	275	261	261	261
Nomura Sec	1750	1720	1740	1740
NTT	8820a	8730a	8780a	8760a
Obayashi	782	760	782	785
Odakyu El Ry	695	678	695	688
Ono Pharm	3450	3400	3450	3350
Osaka Gas	317	315	317	317
Ricoh	1340	1320	1320	1340
Sakura Bk	843	814	828	843
Sankyo	3310	3260	3280	3310
Sanwa Bank	1600	1580	1580	1630
Sanyo Elec	480	462	480	471
Secom	7010	6940	7010	6930
Seibu Rwy	4550	4460	4530	4540
Sekisui House	1180	1160	1180	1190
Seven-Eleven	6840	6780	6780	6820
Sharp	1650	1620	1650	1650
Shimizu	890	850	865	870
Shin-etsu Ch	2120	2100	2110	2110
Shizuoka Bk	1230	1190	1230	1220
Sony	7660	7590	7590	7570
Sumitomo	918	912	913	921
Sumitomo Bk	1670	1630	1670	1670
Sumit Chem	459	447	459	449
Sumitomo Elec	1630	1610	1620	1620
Sumit Metal	285	280	285	282
Sumit Trust	1160	1140	1160	1140
Taisei	601	594	600	595
Taisho Pharm	2730	2670	2730	2730
Takeda Chem	2430	2390	2430	2430
TDK	7580	7520	7550	7590
Tohoku El Pwr	2300	2270	2300	2290
Tokai Bank	1210	1190	1210	1210
Tokio Marine	1110	1080	1090	1080
Tokyo El Pwr	2540	2510	2540	2520
Tokyo Gas	319	313	314	315
Tokyu	662	646	658	654
Tonen	1380	1350	1350	1380
Toppan Print	1460	1440	1450	1450
Toray Ind	715	704	715	710
Toshiba	735	722	728	730
Toyo Seikan	2840	2770	2790	2960
Toyo Trust	941	919	935	931
Toyota Motor	3330	3290	3330	3320
Yamaichi Sec	515	500	515	499
Yamanouchi	2400	2350	2380	2350
Yasuda Fire	613	601	602	606
Yasuda Trust	491	479	491	482

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Toronto

TSE Industrials: 5954.25 Previous: 5902.61

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	21.90	21½	21.85	21.60
Alberta Energy	32.40	32.20	32.20	32.30
Alcan Alum	46.70	46.50	46.65	46.30
Anderson Expl	17.85	17.70	17¾	17¾
Bk Montreal	44.35	43.35	43.85	43¾
Bk Nova Scotia	46¼	45.80	46½	45.45
Barrick Gold	39.80	39⅛	39⅝	39.70
BCE	66¼	65.30	66.15	65.35
BC Telecomm	29.40	29.30	29.40	29
Biochem Pharm	68.35	68.35	68.35	68.35
Bombardier B	25.45	24.85	25.35	24.80
Bramalea A	30.30	30	30.30	30
Bre-X Minerals	22.35	22.85	22.28	22.15
Cameco	55	54.65	54¾	54.70
CIBC	61¼	60	60.70	59.95
Cdn Natl Rail	52¾	52	52.05	52.80
Cdn Natl Res	38	37.30	37.65	37.80
Cdn Occid Pet	22.30	22	22.15	22.20
Cdn Pacific	37.15	36.40	36.85	36.30
Cominco	33⅝	32½	33⅛	33
Dofasco	25.95	25.45	25.80	25.40
Domtar	11.70	11.55	11.55	11.60
Donohue A	24.70	24½	24.70	24½
Du Pont Cda A	32	31.85	31.85	31¾
EuroNev Mng	40.90	39¾	40½	40.20
Fairfax Finl	295	290	292	290
Falconbridge	29⅛	29.10	29.20	29.20
Fletcher Chall A	21.35	21¼	21.35	21.20
Franco Nevada	60.65	59.15	60.30	60¾
Gulf Cda Res	10.35	9.85	10	10⅛
Imperial Oil	64.90	62.95	64.40	62¾
Inco	44.30	44	44.20	43.80
IPL Energy	39¾	38.60	39¾	38.70
Laidlaw B	16	15.65	16	15.70
Loewen Group	53½	53¼	53¼	52.90
Macmill Bldl	18	17.40	18	17.60
Magna Intl A	76¾	75	75.10	75.20
Methanex	12½	12.40	12.40	12½
Moore	29	28¾	29	28
Newbridge Net	39.80	38.70	39.35	38.60
Noranda Inc	30.90	30	30.80	30
Norcen Energy	30.10	29.70	29.90	30.15
Nthern Telecom	87	86⅛	86.35	86.15
Nova	12.30	12.15	12.20	12.15
Onex	19½	19½	19½	19½
Pancdn Petlm	53.40	52.65	53.40	52.80
Petro Cda	19.45	19¼	19¼	19.35
Placer Dome	31.10	30.60	30.90	31.10
Poco Petlm	13.40	12.80	13	13.10
Potash Sask	117	112.30	117	113
Renaissance	47.20	46.60	47	46.60
Rio Algom	30.70	30.05	30.70	30⅛
Rogers Cantel B	27	27	27	27
Seagram Co	57.40	56.10	56.60	56.10
Shell Cda A	53	51⅛	52½	52
Stone Consold	19.20	19.10	19.15	19.15
Suncor	56.85	56½	56.60	56.80
Talisman Eny	46	45	45.90	44.90
Teck B	31.20	30.80	31	31.05
Teleglobe	41½	40½	40½	40½
Telus	20.20	19.80	20.15	19.80
Thomson	31	29.40	30½	28.85
TorDom Bank	36¼	35⅛	35⅝	35.20
Transalta	17.45	17.10	17.40	17.10
TransCda Pipe	24.10	23½	23.95	23.40
Trimark Finl	41.40	41	41.15	41
Trizec Hahn	30.15	29.40	29.95	29.40
TVX Gold	10.85	10½	10.70	10.55
Westcoast Eny	23.30	22.95	23	22.95
Weston	67	66½	66½	66.30

Vienna

ATX index: 1140.19 Previous: 1142.85

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aust Airlines	1650	1650	1650	1711
Brau-Un Goess	669	658	669	660
Bund Vers Pfd	395	395	395	395
Creditanst Pfd	515	498.10	500	496.90
EA-Generali	3367	3200	3300	3281
EVN	1640	1617	1630	1619
Interunfall	1499	1499	1475	1475
Lenzing	700	682	691	689
Leykam	288	283	283	286.90
Mayr-Melnhof	544	530	538	539.50
OMV	1237	1221	1221	1229
Oest Brau	747	734	735	748
Oest Elektriz	813	808	810.50	813
VA Tech	1718	1695	1699.50	1702
Wienerberger	2124	2090	2100	2087

Wellington

NZSE-40 index: 2356.43 Previous: 2350.42

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	2.74	2.74	2.74	2.74
Brierly Invt	1.30	1.29	1.30	1.30
Carter Holt ord	3.27	3.24	3.24	3.25
Fernz	4.85	4.84	4.85	4.90
Fisher Paykel	5.55	5.50	5.50	5.60
FC Forest	2.38	2.37	2.38	2.39
Goodman Fder	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.71
Indep News	7.10	7.10	7.10	7.10
Lion Nathan	3.44	3.42	3.42	3.43
Natl Gas	2.21	2.19	2.21	2.19
NZ Refining	28.50	28.50	28.50	29.00
Telecom NZ	7.22	7.18	7.18	7.13
Wilson Horton	11.70	11.55	11.55	11.75

Zurich

SPI index: 2515.62 Previous: 2501.08

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adecco B	337	333	337	335
Alusuisse R	1070	1066	1069	1063
Ares-Serono B	1280	1265	1265	1280
Baloise Hdg R	2710	2685	2710	2705
ABB B	1682	1668	1669	1671
BK Vision	740	728	738	740
Bobst B	1810	1735	1810	1765
CS Holdings R	137.75	136.75	137	137.25
Elektrowatt B	534	532	534	534
Fischer B	1425	1400	1405	1415
Hilti PC	855	840	855	844
Holderbank B	968	954	968	952
Jel. Boer Hdg B	1403	1395	1400	1395
Nestle R	1448	1438	1443	1439
Novartis R	1532	1516	1530	1509
Oerlikon R	132.75	130	132	130
Pargesa Hld B	1495	1450	1495	1460
PharmaVisn B	609	598	603	605
Pirelli B	185	178	185	180
Roche Hdg PC	10540	10440	10495	10435
SBC R	256	252.75	255.75	251.75
Schindler B	1475	1460	1475	1451
SGS B	3315	3270	3300	3285
SMH B	820	813	819	815
Sulzer R	774	769	769	765
Swiss Reins R	1424	1409	1422	1406
Swissair R	1090	1075	1078	1077
UBS B	1184	1166	1169	1176
Valora Hdg R	265	260	260	265
Winterthur R	779	771	776	775
Zurich Assur R	375	371	373	371

The Trib Index

Closing prices.

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change
World Index	149.25	+0.22	+0.15	+13.18
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	123.06	-0.12	-0.10	-8.34
Europe	159.76	+1.12	+0.71	+14.79
N. America	164.58	-0.67	-0.41	+28.30
S. America	114.34	+0.35	+0.31	+28.41
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	172.37	-0.34	-0.20	+29.72
Consumer goods	161.82	+0.22	+0.14	+17.20
Energy	170.76	+0.47	+0.28	+25.91
Finance	116.08	+0.29	+0.25	-8.76
Miscellaneous	161.23	+0.23	+0.14	+18.72
Raw Materials	175.27	+0.98	+0.56	+23.60
Service	137.41	-0.09	-0.07	+14.51
Utilities	142.44	+0.46	+0.32	+12.03

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar values of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. Compiled by Bloomberg Business News.

NYSE

Monday's 4 p.m. Close

Nationwide prices, not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

Continued on Page 14

ASIA/PACIFIC

Seoul Says Trade Gap Is Expanding

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — South Korea's current-account deficit soared 10-fold in November as exports tumbled, the central bank said Monday.

The current-account deficit in November rose to $1.87 billion from $180 million in November 1995, bringing the deficit for the first 11 months of the year to a record $21.6 billion, the Bank of Korea said. The current account is the broadest measure of a country's trade.

South Korea's current-account deficit for all of 1995 was $9 billion.

"Worsened by the five-day work stoppage this month, the deficit is likely to exceed $23 billion," said Paeng Dong Joon, a senior researcher at the central bank.

A $23 billion deficit is equivalent to 4 percent of the country's gross national product and is expected to cause an increase in unemployment as companies reduce investment and dismiss staff.

Analysts said Korea's labor strikes had hit production at steel producers, auto manufacturers and other industrial companies, which would add to the deficit at the end of the year.

But the rising current-account deficit mainly reflects slumping sales by computer chip manufacturers, which account for 18 percent of all exports.

Separately, the Bank of Korea said 1,067 South Korean companies had filed for bankruptcy in November, the second-highest monthly number this year after 1,143 in October. The central bank said the economic slowdown was to blame.

The Bank of Korea expects the economy to grow 6.4 percent this year, down from a 9.0 percent growth rate in 1995.

The central bank also said direct overseas investment by South Korean companies fell 40.2 percent in November, to $245 million.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Bank Islam Offers Banking by the Book

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR — Fawzi Ahmed was more concerned with morality than profit when he opened an account in 1983 at Bank Islam, a fledgling bank which operates according to Islamic principles.

The most important of those principles is Islam's ban on interest payments, which are considered usury.

Mr. Fawzi and other depositors are not paid interest on their accounts; instead, they share in the bank's profits.

The banks were invented in Egypt three decades ago to provide pious Muslims with a safe place to keep their money. But today, banking by Islamic principles has grown into a competitive, multibillion-dollar industry that is expanding rapidly in many parts of the world.

Islamic banks are common in the Middle East and have sprung up as far away as London and the Philippines. The theocratic leaders of Iran and Sudan require banks to do business according to Islamic guidelines.

Since Bank Islam became Malaysia's first such bank, the industry has taken off. Malaysia's government encourages its Islamic bankers to become global leaders by offering such innovations as home mortgages and a growing array of sophisticated financial services.

The bedrock of Islamic banking is the ban on interest payments. These are regarded by the Koran as exploitation because depositors and lenders make money without providing labor or sharing risks.

Islamic banks pool deposits to invest in construction, commodities trading and other businesses that do not profit from interest payments.

Commercial borrowers pay the bank and its depositors a share of their profits instead of interest. That involves risk, because the bank does not know in advance what the profit, if any, will be.

Led by giants like Saudi Arabia's Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corp., which has $8 billion in assets, the world's Islamic bankers are believed to hold total deposits of nearly $70 billion.

In addition, rapid growth in the industry has prompted Citibank and other major international banks to open Islamic subsidiaries.

Bank Islam's deposits have grown to some 3 billion ringgit ($1.18 billion), while other Malaysian banks have opened separate teller windows for Islamic clients.

One institution, Arab-Malaysian Bank, has issued Southeast Asia's first Islamic credit card — an interest-free Visa card.

Islamic bankers said they also attract thousands of mortgage borrowers from the Chinese and Indian minorities in Malaysia's population of 17 million people. The cost of an Islamic mortgage is about the same as for standard home financing. But borrowers are lured by its simple terms — a flat monthly fee that eliminates the uncertainty of variable interest rates.

The government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is also developing an "Islamic capital market" using interest-free bonds and other securities. Eight Malaysian Islamic investment funds hold shares worth $780 million in 330 carefully screened companies, which cannot be linked to liquor, gambling or other enterprises contrary to Islamic teaching.

Berjaya Buys Stakes in 2 Firms

Bloomberg Business News

KUALA LUMPUR — Berjaya Industrial Bhd. said it would buy controlling stakes in two companies for 664.5 million ringgit ($262.8 million) as part of its plan to build one of Malaysia's largest diversified groups.

"It'll be the investment house of the next century," said Ling Hee Liong, the company's controlling shareholder.

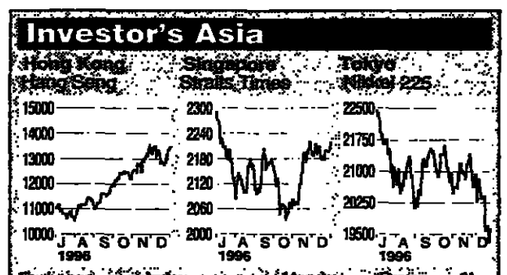
Mr. Ling, 27, who is the eldest son of Malaysia's transport minister, bought a controlling stake in Berjaya Industrial just three weeks ago.

The latest acquisitions allow Berjaya Industrial, which makes wire ropes and sells real estate, to expand its range of businesses and will help the company turn a profit by 1997, Mr. Ling said.

Berjaya will buy 32 percent of Promet Bhd., an engineering and construction company, and 32 percent of Kelanamas Industries Bhd., which has interests in food and beverage making and distribution, along with sugar plantations.

Mr. Ling is backed by Rashid Hussain, a financier who controls Rashid Hussain Bhd., a publicly traded stock brokerage and banking group.

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Monday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	13,480.75	13,404.14	+0.57
Singapore	Straits Times	2,218.45	2,202.60	+0.72
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,412.90	2,395.60	+0.72
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	19,631.35	19,368.04	+1.35
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,214.69	1,208.00	+0.47
Bangkok	SET	831.57	835.71	-0.50
Seoul	Composite Index	Closed	651.22	
Taipei	Stock Market Index	6,926.27	6,909.01	+0.32
Manila	PSE	Closed	3,170.56	
Jakarta	Composite Index	Closed	637.43	
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,356.43	2,350.42	+0.26
Bombay	Sensitive Index	Closed	3,085.20	

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **China** said it had restrained inflation but retained strong growth in 1996, and it expected to do better next year despite soaring state-sector losses and slumping incomes. State statistics estimated that gross domestic product grew 9.7 percent in 1996 to 6.78 trillion yuan ($814.2 billion), while retail price inflation fell to 6.0 percent from 14.8 percent in 1995.
- **Jakarta Stock Exchange** said the volume of transactions in 1996 rose 177.3 percent to 29.5 billion total shares traded, compared with the previous year.
- **Orogen Minerals** of Papua New Guinea plans to exercise an option to acquire 20.5 percent of Gobe oil field project.
- **The Australian stock market** burst through the 2,400 barrier to its highest close in history. The All Ordinaries index ended 17.3 points higher at 2,412.90, led by natural resources producers amid expectations of rising commodities prices.
- **South Korea** plans to open the government procurement market to foreign companies Wednesday under the framework of a **World Trade Organization** agreement.
- **China Air Lines Ltd.**, Taiwan's largest airline, said November sales rose 9.9 percent to 4.36 billion Taiwan dollars ($158.5 million) from a year earlier.

Reuters, Bridge News, AP, AFP, Bloomberg

China to Allow 4 Foreign Banks Do Business in Yuan

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SHANGHAI — China gave four foreign banks — Citibank, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., the Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. and Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. — permission Monday to begin doing business in Chinese yuan on a trial basis, possibly within a month.

The announcement ends months of speculation about which banks would be allowed to enter the potentially lucrative business.

Only banks with branches in the Pudong development area of Shanghai, across the river from its traditional financial area of Puxi, will be allowed to conduct local-currency business.

According to official regulations published earlier this month, foreign banks licensed to handle yuan business will have to limit yuan loans to less than 35 percent of the loans they grant in hard currency.

While foreign banks have been have been eager to gain a share of the huge local market for Chinese yuan deposits and loans, China has so far restricted foreign banks in China to handling foreign-currency loans. Some analysts say China's state-owned banks are poorly prepared to face foreign competitors.

It remains unclear whether foreign banks will have to pay the same tax rate as Chinese banks — one of the key obstacles to implementing the policy change. Foreign bank profits are currently taxed at 15 percent, while Chinese commercial banks are taxed at 33 percent and the main state banks at 55 percent.

Executives with the chosen banks said they were waiting for more details on the terms of business. *(Bloomberg, Reuters)*

SATELLITE: *TV Pirates Spark a New Kind of Border Conflict*

Continued from Page 9

unit of General Motors Corp.; MVS Multivision of Mexico, and others. The second, Sky, is led by Grupo Televisa and News Corp.

Once Mexico had signed the reciprocity agreement, the companies wasted no time in making the gray market legitimate.

SkyTV was signing up customers in shopping malls and stores in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey before Christmas and expects to have 170,000 paying customers across Mexico by the end of the year. Galaxy Latin America received its permit to start charging customers on Dec. 11 and expects to be able to offer 238 video and audio channels by the time it starts a new $250 million satellite in September.

Mexico's gray market is quickly disappearing. "The business has gotten less attractive, now that the two big companies are absorbing the market," said Pedro Castaneiras, a Mexican businessman who used to install satellite dishes in and around Mexico City.

Mr. Castaneiras estimated that about 40,000 households in Mexico subscribed to gray market services. As in Canada, this means buying a dish in the United States or going through a local gray-market company that can sell the dish and provide the key to getting monthly services — an address in the United States to be used for billing.

Protected by a language barrier, Mexico's primary consideration was the business end of the equation. In Canada, the issue of cultural protectionism is far more sensitive. Canada tries doggedly to limit the leakage of radio, television, books, magazines and films from the United States in order to preserve at least a bit of space for domestic competition.

The dispute with Canada over providing direct-to-home television is hampering a fully legal satellite service from being made available to Canadian consumers, who continue to snap up the gray market satellite programming at a rate of more than 20,000 a month.

Industry leaders in Canada fear the domestic market could evaporate before a Canadian provider gets into the air.

"If the gray market is allowed to grow unabated for another year, there may not be a business case for a domestic direct-to-home company," said Michael Neuman, president of Expressvu Inc., a company backed by Bell Canada that won a satellite license two years ago.

Executives Purchase CITIC Pacific Stock From Parent

Bloomberg Business News

HONG KONG — Executives at CITIC Pacific Ltd., China's largest investment company in Hong Kong, paid 10.89 billion Hong Kong dollars ($1.31 billion) on Monday for a 15.5 percent stake in their company in a bid to increase its independence and growth prospects.

Chairman Larry Yung and other executives bought 330 million shares from the company's state-owned parent, CITIC Hong Kong Ltd., for 33 dollars a share, a discount of 24 percent to closing share price of 43.60 dollars on Friday. The shares rose to 45.60 dollars on Monday.

The company told the Hong Kong stock exchange that the purchase would raise money for the parent to make investments in China and give managers incentive to improve their performance.

By cutting Beijing's share in the company to just over quarter, the purchase makes CITIC Pacific look more independent.

"It's not clear why they need to do this or whether this is just a favor to the staff," said Andrew Look of Prudential Portfolio Managers Asia Ltd. "The prospect of managers taking such large profits creates an overhang on the stock."

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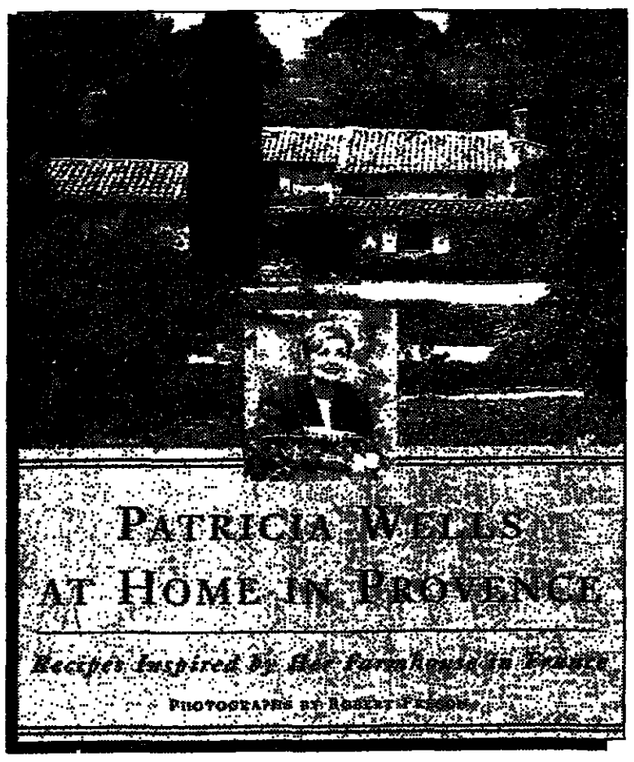

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Patricia Wells has lived in France since 1980, where she is the restaurant critic for the *International Herald Tribune*. She is the author of five best-selling books: *The Food Lover's Guide to Paris, The Food Lover's Guide to France, Bistro Cooking, Simply French,* and *Patricia Wells' Trattoria.*

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Favre Wins MVP For 2d Straight Year

FOOTBALL Brett Favre, the Green Bay Packers' quarterback, was voted the National Football League's Most Valuable Player on Monday, becoming the first repeat winner since 1990 and only the second player ever to win the award in consecutive years.

Favre joined Joe Montana (1989-90) as the only winner of two straight MVPs. Other two-time winners were Steve Young (1992 and 1994), Johnny Unitas (1964 and 1967) and Jim Brown (1957 and 1965). Favre joined Paul Hornung, Jim Taylor and Bart Starr as Packers who've won the award.

Favre led the Packers to a 13-3 record this season, tops in the NFC. He surpassed his 38 touchdown passes of 1995 — an NFC record — with 39 this year. He also threw for 3,899 yards and had a 95.8 rating, second in the league to San Francisco's Steve Young. The Packers will meet the 49ers this weekend in Green Bay in an NFC playoff game. *(AP)*

Ince Banned for 4 Games

SOCCER Inter Milan's English midfielder, Paul Ince, received a four-game suspension Monday — the heaviest punishment in the Italian first division so far this season.

The disciplinary commission of the Italian soccer league punished Ince, 29, for rough play and for protesting a referee's decision during Inter's last Serie A match on Dec. 22 against last-place Reggiana. Ince, a member of England's national team, was sent off the field during the match, which ended in a 1-1 draw, after receiving a double warning.

The suspension, which can be appealed for a possible reduction, was the second received by Ince during the current season. *(AP)*

• Carlos Alberto Parreira, who steered Brazil to a record fourth World Cup title in 1994, signed a two-year contract Monday to coach the New York/New Jersey MetroStars of U.S. Major League Soccer. Parreira was termed a "perfect fit" for the fledgling franchise by its general manager, Charlie Stillitano. Parreira, 53, becomes the third coach in the brief history of the team, following Eddie Firmani and Carlos Queiroz. *(Reuters)*

Larsson Upsets Enqvist

TENNIS Second-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden was eliminated in the first round of the $635,000 Qatar Open on Monday, losing in straight sets to countryman Magnus Larsson.

Larsson defeated Enqvist, who is ranked No. 9 in the world, 6-4, 7-5, to set up a second-round match against another Swede, Patrik Fredriksson, who defeated Karim Alami of Morocco 6-2, 6-2. *(AP)*

Zimbabwe Test Abandoned

CRICKET The second and last cricket test between Zimbabwe and England was called off Monday, two hours before play was due to resume on the fifth and final day.

Heavy overnight rain in Harare, Zimbabwe, had swamped the edge of the playing square and it proved impossible for ground staff to carry out mopping-up operations in time for any prospect of a result.

A victory for either side was unlikely in any event, and, by general consent between the umpires and the two captains, Alistair Campbell and Mike Atherton, the match was abandoned. *(AP)*

49ers, in a Monsoon, Drub the Eagles, 14-0

Young Excels in Playoff Victory

By Tom Friend
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Monsoon season and football season are not supposed to coincide, but the playing field at 3Com Park was under water by halftime and now Ray Rhodes's Philadelphia Eagles are six feet under.

The Eagles threw two interceptions in the end zone, watched the San Francisco 49ers' quarterback, Steve Young, run

NFL PLAYOFFS

through them and were shut out for the first time in their playoff history, 14-0, in a National Football Conference wild-card game Sunday.

The Eagles' Ty Detmer threw twice into enemy hands — each time inside the San Francisco 10-yard line — and spent the rest of the game watching Young bootleg. Overcoming a two-touchdown deficit is difficult any time, but it was impossible Sunday with the wind careening in sideways and with half of the stadium lights out because of a power failure.

Detmer left in the second half with a badly pulled right hamstring, courtesy of the 49ers' relentless Bryant Young. His replacement, Mark Rypien, was five years removed from his Super Bowl year with Washington. Ricky Watters, the Philadelphia running back and former 49er who wanted payback, was rendered useless. He finished with 57 yards on 20 carries.

San Francisco, a wild-card team for the first time since 1985, will meet the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field in Wisconsin next weekend in the division round and it can only hope that Young locates a sturdy flak jacket. The quarterback played nearly the entire game with bruised ribs and still managed to run for 70 yards on eight improvisational carries.

One was a second-quarter touchdown, a 9-yard quarterback draw on which he acted like a fullback. Then, just to show his diversity, he eventually found Jerry Rice, too.

Rice, who had only one catch for 3 yards at halftime, made a one-handed 36-yard catch in the third quarter and followed that with a 3-yard touchdown catch that sealed the affair. Young (14 of 21 for 161 yards and no interceptions) spent the rest of the day running out the clock or bootlegging out the clock.

The wind had a mind of its own. The mild gusts were 44 miles (72 kilometers) an hour, the heavy gusts 64 miles an hour, and they certainly had both kickers wishing for a dome.

Gary Anderson was the definition of wide left. His Eagles marched 59 yards on the opening drive — sending Watters (48 yards on 13 carries in the first half) every which way but backward — but a Lee Woodall sack forced an ill-fated field goal attempt from 40 yards out.

Watters' jersey was the dirtiest. This was his maiden voyage back to San Francisco — after fleeing the 49ers two years ago for a $9.6 million contract — and he wanted the ball on downs one through four.

Young did his best to make Watters the most idle Eagle of all time. In the second quarter, the 49er quarterback engineered the sort of drive usually reserved for a clear day, completing 6 of 7 passes and scoring on a daredevil 9-yard touchdown run.

It was a simple quarterback draw on third-and-1 and Young broke four sturdy tackles en route to the end zone.

It gave the 49ers a 7-0 lead, with 11 minutes left in the first half, but it also had Young doubled over. He had bruised the ribs adjacent to his throwing arm on Conner's tackle and it left him with an abbreviated throwing motion.

In a game that appeared in some Monday editions, The Associated Press reported:

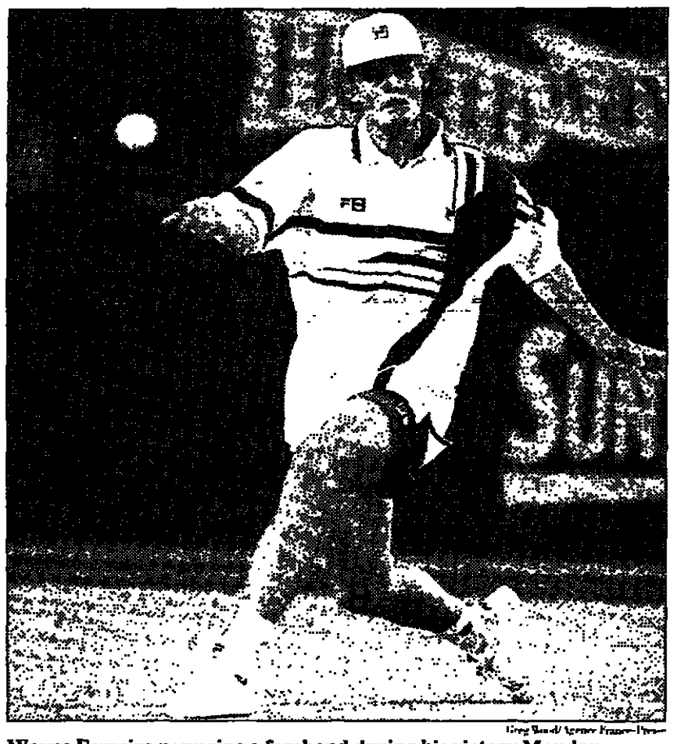
Steelers 42, Colts 14 The Pittsburgh Steelers advanced to the second round of the NFL playoffs with a 42-14 rout of the Indianapolis Colts.

But this game did not come down to a final desperation pass by the Colts, as did last year's AFC title game between the two teams.

This time, Jerome Bettis saved a Steelers' offense that was threatening yet another big-game meltdown, running for two second-half touchdowns and 102 yards as host Pittsburgh survived another erratic day by quarterback Mike Tomczak.

Dave Kelly/Reuters

Ricky Watters (32) going nowhere against the 49ers, his former team, as the Eagles lost in the playoffs.



Greg Baker/Agence France-Presse

Wayne Ferreira powering a forehand during his victory Monday.

South Africa Sweeps Germany, 3-0

The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer both scored impressive singles victories Monday as South Africa swept Germany, 3-0, in the Hopman Cup mixed teams tennis championship.

Coetzer won the first seven games and went on to beat Petra Begerow, 6-0, 7-5 in the women's singles and Ferreira then defeated Bernd Karbacher 6-4, 6-4 to seal an unassailable lead. The third-seeded South African pair then won the mixed doubles 6-3, 6-4.

Ferreira, who played the event last year with a broken hand, scored his first victory in five Hopman Cup singles matches.

HOPMAN CUP TENNIS

"It's good to get a win," he said. "It makes the rest of the week a little easier. I didn't serve particularly well, but I was happy with the rest of my game."

Ferreira rallied from 2-4 down in the second set, winning four straight games against Karbacher, while Coetzer always had the measure of the erratic Begerow, who was called up four days ago as a replacement for world No.1 Steffi Graf, who withdrew from the event with a viral infection.

Marc Rosset, struggling to overcome a painful back injury, linked with Martina Hingis earlier Monday to lift second-seeded Switzerland to a 2-1 victory over Romania in its opening match. Rosset needed treatment at courtside during the 110-minute match but he and Hingis downed Adrian Voinea and Irina Spirlea 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the decisive mixed doubles.

Hingis gave the Swiss a 1-0 lead when she beat Spirlea 7-5, 6-2 in the women's singles but Rosset then gave Voinea a walkover victory in the men's singles, preferring to save his back for the doubles. The gamble paid off.

"In mixed it is physically easier than singles," Rosset said. "I felt I wasn't ready to play singles but I had a lot of confidence that I could win the mixed with Martina."

Rosset, a former Olympic gold medalist who travels with his own physiotherapist after a series of niggling ailments, said he expects to be fit to play both singles and doubles against South Africa on Wednesday.

Hingis is now 5-0 in Hopman Cup singles play. Surprisingly, she and Rosset converse in English, rather than one of the Swiss national languages. Hingis was born in the Czech Republic, while Rosset's first language is French. "We tried German last year, but my German is so bad I gave Martina the wrong instructions," said Rosset.

Croatia, France, Australia and the United States are contesting Group A of the round-robin event and Switzerland, Germany, Romania and South Africa are in Group B.

The winning team from each group will advance to Saturday's final. Prize money for the event totals $640,000. The winning pair will collect $176,000. The Hopman Cup is one of a series of lead-up events to the Australian Open, to be played in Melbourne from Jan. 13-26.

■ Top-Seeded Kafelnikov Crashes to Tillstrom

Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden upset two-time champion Yevgeni Kafelnikov 6-2, 6-2 Monday in the first round of the Australian Hardcourt tennis championships, The Associated Press reported from Adelaide.

Tillstrom, ranked 47th in the world, broke French Open champion Kafelnikov's serve twice in the first set to establish a grip he never relinquished. The victory took him just 49 minutes. Top-seeded Kafelnikov, ranked third in the world, said, "He was very aggressive and he dominated me all night. From time to time it happens and to lose to a guy who is 47 in the world is not the end of the world for me."

A Sugar-Bowl Dilemma: Thump the Bible or the Quarterback?

By Malcolm Moran
New York Times Service

NEW ORLEANS — The marriage between football and religion was renewed here at the worship services of the First Baptist Church of New Orleans, when Pastor David Crosby issued his welcome to the guests and reminded them of the place they occupied on the calendar. "This is indeed a special Sunday," he said. "It's the Sunday before the Sugar Bowl."

Soon afterward, as the people in the broad, bright church listened intently, Florida State's coach, Bobby Bowden, briefly addressed an issue that extended well beyond his team's attempt to win a national championship. "When I say I am a Christian, it doesn't mean that I'm perfect," he said. "You read the paper, and you can tell I'm not perfect."

The extent of Bowden's imperfection is at the center of differences that have become the focal point of the Sugar Bowl.

Steve Spurrier, the coach of the Florida Gators, who must hope for an Arizona State loss in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day, and a Florida victory over Florida State the next night to gain the first national championship in school history, has intensified an accusation that began following Florida State's 24-21 victory over the Gators a month ago.

Spurrier's claim that Florida State used late and illegal hits in an attempt to injure Danny Wuerffel, the prayerful Florida quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner, has challenged the ethics of Bowden and his staff. It has transformed an upcoming meeting with officials, seldom attended by head coaches, into high-level peace talks very likely to be attended by both Spurrier and Bowden.

A football game has already grown into a debate over the choices behind tactics and gamesmanship, and the harm that can be brought to a quarterback and a coach's reputation.

As Spurrier has reiterated his viewpoint, he has been pushing an agenda he maintains is nothing more than a coach protecting the welfare of a player. His opinions have included a revealing personal assessment during a week in which Spurrier, a minister's son, would prefer to reveal as little as possible.

"He doesn't have a nasty temper at all," Spurrier said of Wuerffel. "I think he's sort of like a New Testament person. He gets slapped upside the face and he turns the other cheek. He says: 'Lord, forgive them. They know not what they doeth.' I'm probably more of an Old Testament guy. You spear our guy in the ear hole, and we think we're supposed to spear you in the ear hole. That's how we're a little different."

Bowden, for his part, has appeared to camouflage his feelings. When asked if he had been angered by the charges, he said: "Not too much. More than I've ever been, but not too much."

The meeting between Florida State (11-0) and Florida (11-1) marks the 11th time that a bowl game has created a rematch of a game in the previous regular season. Only once before in the 61 years of The Associated Press news media poll has the No. 1-ranked team been forced to replay an opponent it had already defeated, and in that game, Ohio State lost to UCLA in the 1976 Rose Bowl.

But this game involves the power politics of possibly the richest recruiting area in the nation, a rivalry that has bred contempt for decades. From the first question of the initial formal news conference here — Why do these teams dislike each other? — it was clear that the familiarity of a fifth game within three seasons had not helped the relationship.

After Spurrier cited the basic explanation — teams within a state that play each year and recruit much of the same talent — he turned to his theme. "It probably added a little dimension after the last game," he said. "I must tell you the reason I spoke out about the way they hit Danny Wuerffel is because I feel as a head coach, the No. 1 responsibility I have is player safety."

Wuerffel was sacked six times behind a Florida offensive line that has had six different starting combinations as a result of injury and suspension. He completed 23 of 48 passes for 362 yards and three touchdowns. He was hit 32 times on Florida's 76 offensive plays. A Florida-produced videotape of nine plays showed three clear late hits by Florida State, two of which were penalized. Three other tackles that were not penalized appeared to involve borderline hits.

Spurrier said he was not making a connection between the tackles and Florida's loss. "They still beat us regardless of how they hit Danny," he said. "It had no outcome on the game."

But at the start of Sugar Bowl week, the controversy has overshadowed any discussion of Spurrier's 2-5-1 record against Florida State, 1-1-4 in the last six games, or a struggling offensive line.

Bowden said his staff would remind the players of the importance of avoiding penalties. If the added scrutiny on tackles after Wuerffel releases his passes causes one or more early flags, one potential effect could be the creation of subtle indecisiveness — as small as fractions of seconds — that could inhibit Florida State's overwhelming defensive line.

Before it was time to resume the search for solutions Sunday, Bowden also went to church. He stood behind a pulpit, framed by poinsettias. He encouraged listeners to examine the Bible — "Read the doggone book" — and remembered a story about the difficult choices everyone must face.

Bowden remembered that when his six children ranged in age from 4 to 14, a revivalist made an example of him as the family sat in the front row of a church. Bowden remembered being asked if he would walk across a beam on the floor, from one side of the aisle to the other, for $20. Of course, Bowden replied.

"He said, 'If I took that beam up to New York City and I could stretch it from the top of the twin towers, 110 stories high, from that roof across the street to that roof, and I said I'll give you $20 to walk across, would you do it?'

"I said: 'Absolutely not. I wouldn't do it for a thousand dollars. I wouldn't try it for a million dollars. I'd fall. I wouldn't do it for all the money in the world!'

"He said, 'Well, let me ask you another question.' He looked at me with all my kids. He said, 'If we were 110 stories high, and you were up on that roof, and I was over here on this roof, and I had one of your kids, holding him by the arms over the edge, and I told you if you walked across I wouldn't drop him but if you don't I'm going to drop him, would you do it?' "

Bowden paused for a silent moment. "I said, 'Which child?' "

The extended laughter finally quieted, and Bobby Bowden smiled and said: "It gets kind of testy, doesn't it?"

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SPORTS

4-2 Victory Extends Flyers' Streak to 13

The Associated Press

John LeClair scored twice as the Philadelphia Flyers stretched the National Hockey League's longest current unbeaten run to 13 games with a 4-2 victory over the slumping Calgary Flames.

LeClair scored the decisive goal, his 24th, at 2:10 of the third period Sunday

NHL Roundup

night, rifling in a shot off a kick pass from Dale Hawerchuk. Earlier, Hawerchuk had a goal for his 1,400th career point. Eric Lindros assisted on that goal, extending his consecutive-game point streak to a league-high 13.

Midway through the third period, Dainius Zubrus got the final goal for the visiting Flyers, who are 11-0-2 in their last 13 games.

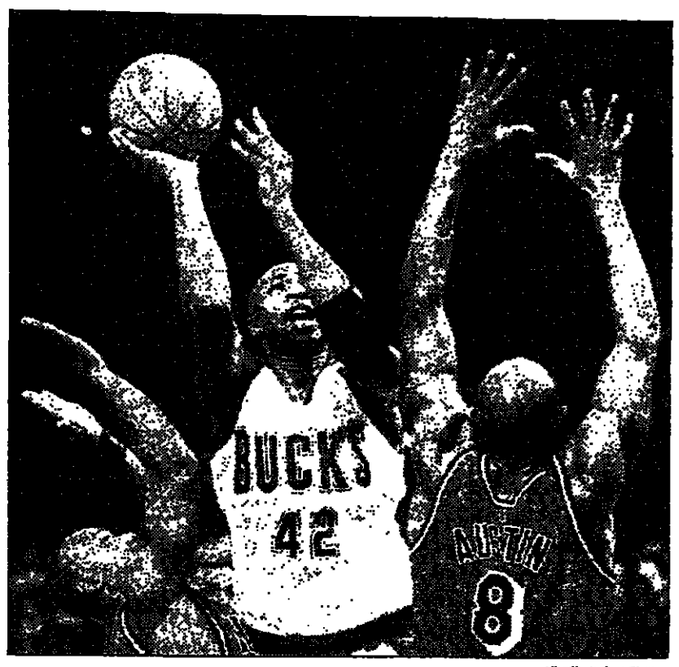
Tommy Albelin and Sandy McCarthy, with his first goal of the season, ...f the Flames.

Canadiens 2, Panthers 1 In Miami, ...ncent Damphousse's second goal of the game — during a two-man advantage — gave injury-riddled Montreal a victory over Florida, ending the Canadiens' seven-game winless streak. The loss left the Panthers in a first-place tie with Philadelphia in the Atlantic Division. Florida had taken sole possession of the lead in October with an 8-0-4 season-opening run.

Blues 4, Bruins 2 Jim Campbell, the NHL's leading rookie scorer, had two goals, and Grant Fuhr stopped 32 shots for host St. Louis.The Blues had not beaten the Bruins since 1994. John Rohloff scored twice for the Bruins.

Blackhawks 4, Whalers 3 In Chicago, Alex Zhamnov scored unassisted with 5:26 to play, capping a three-goal third-period rally as the Blackhawks broke a six-game winless streak. The loss was Hartford's fourth straight on the road.

Avalanche 3, Stars 2 Christian Matte had his first NHL goal and assist as Colorado ended the unbeaten road streak ...Dallas in a meeting of Western Conference leaders. Uwe Krupp and Eric Lacroix added goals for the Avalanche. Mike Modano had his 15th goal for the Stars, and Bill Huard added one.



Allen Breed/Associated Press

Vin Baker shooting over the Heat's Tim Hardaway (left) and Keith Austin.

O'Neal Lifts Lakers Over 76ers

The Associated Press

Shaquille O'Neal scored 28 points in 28 minutes and Eddie Jones had 20 points and seven steals as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Philadelphia 76ers, 115-102, for their 12th victory in 15 games.

The Sixers, who have lost 12 of their last 13, were led by Jerry Stackhouse and the rookie Allen Iverson, each of

NBA Roundup

whom had 21 points Sunday night. Derrick Coleman and Clarence Weatherspoon added 19 apiece. The host Lakers took a 10-point lead into the fourth quarter and used a 13-4 run to go ahead, 100-83, with 8:03 left. Philadelphia responded with an 8-0 spurt, but the Sixers got no closer as O'Neal scored his last six points in the final 5½ minutes.

Nets 110, Pacers 102 Kerry Kittles scored 28 points, including a 3-pointer and a jumper during a 7-0 run in overtime that led New Jersey past host Indiana.

Indiana, which lost to the Nets for the second time in three days, was led by Reggie Miller's 37 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter.

Heat 95, Bucks 94 Tim Hardaway scored 18 of his season-high 36 points in the fourth quarter as Miami gained its 14th straight road victory — the third longest streak in NBA history.

Alonzo Mourning, Sasha Danilovic and Gary Grant were sidelined with back problems and Kurt Thomas sat out with a sprained right ankle. That left Miami with only eight players in uniform, and coach Pat Riley used seven as the Heat won its fifth in a row.

Trail Blazers 110, Spurs 86 Isaiah Rider scored 19 points while playing less than three quarters as the host Trail Blazers routed San Antonio.

The Spurs lost their second in a row since David Robinson was injured again, this time with a broken left foot.

1996: A Year of Glory and Gloom

In Sports, Excellence Shared Stage With Ignominy

By Dave Anderson
New York Times Service

AFTER the revelry, reality returned. Not long after a celebration, a comedown usually occurred. And even with the glory, gloom often hovered.

In sports in 1996, many victories were never enjoyed for long and the losses lingered.

The New York Yankees sprayed champagne after John Wetteland closed out the World Series, but he soon departed to the Texas Rangers as a $24 million free agent. Jimmy Key took the Baltimore Orioles' money. Jim Leyritz, whose home run turned the Series, was traded to the Anaheim Angels.

Michael Johnson streaked 200 meters in a world-record 19.32 seconds at the Summer Games, but the Atlanta police still don't know who planted the bomb that exploded in Centennial Olympic Park.

The Dallas Cowboys won Super Bowl XXX, but a guilty plea to drug possession suspended Michael Irvin for five games and a violation of the National Football League's drug policy suspended Leon Lett until late next season.

Michael Jordan lifted the Chicago Bulls to a fourth National Basketball Association title, but sandwiching that achievement, the Bulls' rainbow-haired rebounder, Dennis Rodman, had to be suspended for head-butting a referee and for foul language on television.

Evander Holyfield dethroned and demolished Mike Tyson in an 11th-round knockout, but Andrew Golota twice was disqualified for hitting Riddick Bowe below the belt. And Tommy Morrison turned up HIV positive.

Tiger Woods, after winning his third straight United States Amateur golf championship at age 20, won two PGA Tour events, but Greg Norman was still wondering how he soared to a final-round 78 to lose the Masters to Nick Faldo.

Cigar tied Citation's 16-race winning streak, but then the superhorse lost three of his last four races before being retired.

Steffi Graf took three of the four Grand Slam tennis titles, including a seventh Wimbledon and a fifth U.S. Open, while her father, Peter, was in a German prison pending trial on income-tax evasion charges.

Nebraska's selection as the mythical U.S. college football champion after its Fiesta Bowl triumph was stained by various police charges against several of its players, and Boston College suspended 13 players for gambling.

The University of Kentucky, urged on by coach Rick Pitino, soared to the national college basketball title, but Jim Harrick, whose UCLA team won the crown in 1995, was discharged for lying about who was with him at an expense-account dinner.

Baseball's players and owners signed a labor treaty, but earlier in the year Roberto Alomar was suspended for the first five games next season for spitting in an umpire's face, and Marge Schott, the Cincinnati Reds' owner, was suspended for racial remarks.

Too often in too many sports, 1996 was that kind of year.

AFTER the Yankees lost the first two games of the World Series, the team's manager, Joe Torre, told its owner, George Steinbrenner, not to worry. "We'll win three in Atlanta," Torre said. "Then we'll come back to the Stadium and win it Saturday night." They did just that, the Series turning on Leyritz's three-run homer in the fourth game that the Yankees went on to win in the 10th inning.

In the Year of the Home Run (a record 4,962 were hit in U.S. major-league baseball, Todd Hundley hit 41, a record for catchers, but the New York Mets were on a treadmill to fourth place in the NL East. Paul Molitor, playing for the Twins, got his 3,000th hit. Eddie Murray, playing for the Orioles (he'll play for Anaheim next season), slugged his 500th homer.

Heart problems persuaded Tom Lasorda to stop managing the Dodgers after nearly 20 seasons. Vision loss forced the Twins' Kirby Puckett to stop playing.

Midway through the Summer Games, which attracted a record 197 nations, a pipe bomb exploded one night in Centennial Olympic Park. It killed a 44-year-old woman, provoked a Turkish photographer's fatal heart attack, injured 111, embarrassed Atlanta and closed the park for three days. But the competition continued.

Perhaps the most compelling moment occurred during the opening ceremony, when Muhammad Ali, the three-time world heavyweight champion and a 1960 boxing gold medalist now afflicted with Parkinson's syndrome, lighted the Olympic flame that blazed above Olympic Stadium.

In his first full NBA campaign since his fling at baseball, Michael Jordan was arguably better than ever. The Chicago Bulls set a record for regular-season victories, with 72, and then conquered the Seattle SuperSonics in six games for the title. For that, Jordan was rewarded with his fourth MVP award for the regular season and his fourth MVP award for the playoffs.

Unlike the four opponents Mike Tyson had demolished since his release from prison, Evander Holyfield didn't freeze in fear. He was tougher and stronger. In the 11th round, Tyson was battered and beaten. As the World Boxing Association champion, Holyfield holds at least a share of the heavyweight title for the third time.

In hockey, the Colorado Avalanche, in its first season there after leaving Quebec, swept the third-year Florida Panthers in the Stanley Cup finals. Not long after, the World Cup provided a big boost for American talent. Sparked by New York Ranger goaltender Mike Richter, the U.S. team stopped Canada, 5-2, in the decisive third game.

For all of Eldrick (Tiger) Woods's deserved hype and headlines, Tom Lehman was the best golfer, winning the British Open, the Tour Championship, the Vardon trophy and $1,780,159, despite losing the U.S. Open by one stroke to Steve Jones.

Bjarne Riis of Denmark ended Miguel Indurain's bid for a sixth straight Tour de France. Lance Armstrong repeated in the Tour duPont, but he later was diagnosed with testicular cancer.

In one of the year's sweetest stories, the St. John's soccer team, with players from all over the world and the New York area, won the university's first national championship in any sport. And unlike so much else in 1996, that's still a sweet story.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	23	7	.767	—
New York	20	8	.714	2
Washington	15	13	.536	7
Orlando	10	15	.400	10½
New Jersey	8	18	.308	13
Philadelphia	8	20	.286	14
Boston	5	21	.192	16

CENTRAL DIVISION

Chicago	26	4	.867	—
Detroit	21	7	.750	4
Cleveland	18	10	.643	7
Atlanta	16	11	.593	8½
Charlotte	15	13	.536	10
Milwaukee	15	14	.517	10½
Indiana	13	14	.481	11½
Toronto	10	19	.345	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	23	6	.793	—
Utah	22	6	.786	½
Minnesota	12	17	.414	11
Dallas	10	17	.370	12
Denver	8	21	.276	15
San Antonio	6	20	.231	15½
Vancouver	6	24	.200	17½

PACIFIC DIVISION

L.A. Lakers	22	9	.710	—
Seattle	21	10	.677	1
Portland	16	15	.516	6
Sacramento	13	17	.433	8½
Golden State	11	18	.379	10
L.A. Clippers	10	19	.345	11
Phoenix	9	19	.321	11½

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

New Jersey — — — 19 33 20 18—110
Indiana 25 16 25 22 18—102

N.J.: Kittles 9-17 8-9 28, Gill 7-16 8-10 22, Bradley 10-18 0-0 20; I: Miller 12-23 7-7 37, A.Davis 6-16 3-6 15. Rebounds—New Jersey 46 (Bradley 10), Indiana 62 (D.Davis 16). Assists—New Jersey 23 (Kittles 6), Indiana 21 (Best 8).

Miami 32 16 19 28—95
Milwaukee 24 22 19 29—94

Mi: Hardaway 14-24 4-5 36, P.J.Brown 5-11 8-8 18. Rebounds—Miami 48 (P.J. Brown 13), Milwaukee 47 (Baker, Lang 9). Assists—Miami 18 (Hardaway 8), Milwaukee 27 (Robinson 8).

Philadelphia 27 26 22 27—102
L.A. Lakers 38 24 31 30—115

P: Stackhouse 6-14 7-12 21, Iverson 8-18 3-4 21; L.A.: O'Neal 10-17 8-12 28, O'Neal 10-17 8-12 28. Rebounds—Philadelphia 60 (Williams 10), Los Angeles 64 (O'Neal 12). Assists—Philadelphia 21 (Iverson 10), Los Angeles 31 (Van Exel 11).

San Antonio 15 16 26 29— 86
Portland 31 27 29 23—110

S.A.: Wilkins 3-16 9-14 16, Williams 6-10 3-4 15. Rebounds—San Antonio 49 (Perdue 8), Portland 44 (Sabonis 11). Assists—San Antonio 14 (Alexander 6), Portland 21 (K.Anderson 9).

The AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 29, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a ... [illegible]

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Kansas (6)	8-0	1,678	2
2. Wake Forest (6)	8-0	1,678	3
3. Kentucky	10-1	1,611	3
4. Iowa St.	8-0	1,472	5
5. Clemson	10-1	1,318	6
6. Cincinnati	5-2	1,291	7
7. Utah	8-1	1,254	8
8. Michigan	9-1	1,215	4
9. Arizona	6-2	1,114	9
10. Villanova	9-1	1,104	10
11. North Carolina	9-1	1,094	11
12. Indiana	13-1	1,022	13
13. Duke	8-2	1,010	12
14. Louisville	10-0	821	16
15. Minnesota	10-1	791	15
16. New Mexico	11-1	747	14
17. Xavier, Ohio	9-0	699	17
18. Texas	6-2	552	18
19. Maryland	11-0	478	21
20. Oregon	9-0	375	24
21. Stanford	7-1	325	23
22. Arkansas	6-2	312	22
23. Texas Tech	8-2	203	20
24. Illinois	10-2	110	—
25. Boston College	6-2	103	25

Others receiving votes: Alabama 57, Georgia 37, California 24, Florida St. 24, Connecticut 22, Wisconsin 18, Coll. of Charleston 13, Texas Christian 12, West Virginia 11, Georgetown 10, Washington 10, Tulsa 9, New Mexico St. 8, UCLA 8, Pacific 7, Memphis 6, Fresno St. 5, Michigan St. 5, Oklahoma 4, UNLV 4, Virginia 4, Iowa 3, Marquette 2, Rhode Island 2, Colorado St. 1, E. Michigan1.

Top 25 College Results

How the top 25 teams in The Associated ... fared [illegible] did not play; 3, Kentucky (10-1) beat Stetson 81-65; 4, Michigan [illegible] Florida 73-72; beat Washington State 85-79.

5, Iowa State (8-0) did not play.

6, Clemson (10-1) did not play; 7, Cincinnati (5-2) beat Western Kentucky 81-57; 8, Utah (8-1) beat Wisconsin-Milwaukee 77-63; beat UC Irvine 75-50; 9, Arizona (6-2) beat Robert Morris 118-54.

10, Villanova (9-1) beat St. Joseph's 81-65; beat Rider 75-61; 11, North Carolina (9-1) did not play; 12, Duke (8-2) did not play; 13, Indiana (13-1) beat Butler 89-84, OT; beat Colgate 63-48; beat Valparaiso 72-51; 14, New Mexico (11-1) beat Jackson State 98-45; beat Bucknell 67-57; beat Mississippi 75-64.

15, Minnesota (10-1) beat Alabama State 114-34; beat Long Island University 104-84; 16, Louisville (10-0) beat Tennessee State 102-54; beat No. 25 Boston College 89-85, 2OT; 17, Xavier, Ohio (9-0) beat Kansas State 95-54; 18, Texas (6-2) did not play; 19, Alabama (10-2) lost to San Jose State 60-59; lost to Santa Clara 77-62.

20, Texas Tech (8-2) lost to New Mexico State 122-105; beat Wyoming 77-74; 21, Maryland (11-0) beat Lafayette 108-67; beat Pittsburgh 66-63; beat Hawaii 76-59; 22, Arkansas (6-2) beat Southern Utah State 92-52; 23, Stanford (7-1) beat Navy 85-68; 24, Oregon (9-0) beat Temple 82-62; beat Oregon State 66-64; 25, Boston College (6-2) beat Central Connecticut State 63-53; lost to No. 16 Louisville 89-85, 2OT.

HOCKEY

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Philadelphia	23	12	3	49	120	92
Florida	20	9	9	49	113	89
New Jersey	20	12	3	43	95	84
N.Y. Rangers	19	15	5	43	136	107
Washington	15	19	3	33	99	102
N.Y. Islanders	12	16	8	32	95	104
Tampa Bay	11	19	5	27	99	113

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	19	15	3	41	108	98
Pittsburgh	18	15	4	40	130	120
Hartford	17	13	6	40	111	117
Montreal	13	18	7	33	120	133
Boston	13	17	6	32	103	127
Ottawa	11	16	7	29	94	102

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	22	12	3	47	108	87
Detroit	20	11	6	46	116	73
St. Louis	17	20	2	36	111	129
Phoenix	16	17	4	36	100	117
Chicago	15	19	6	36	103	107
Toronto	16	22	0	32	117	135

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	22	10	5	49	131	89
Edmonton	16	19	4	36	130	123
Vancouver	16	18	1	33	105	118
Calgary	13	20	5	31	95	110
San Jose	13	19	4	30	92	116
Los Angeles	13	20	4	30	100	127
Anaheim	12	19	5	29	103	115

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia — — — — 0 2 2—4
First Period: C-Albelin 2 (Tilley, Racine) Second Period: P-Hawerchuk, 8 (Lindros, LeClair) 23 (Desjardins, Dykhuis) Third Period: P-LeClair 24 (Hawerchuk, Samuelsson); 6, P-Zubrus 5 (Bowen, Druce) Shots on goal: P- 10-13-16—39. C- 9-10-7—26. Goalies: P-Hextall. C-Kidd.

Florida 0 1 1—2
First Period: F-[illegible] 1 0 0—1
Gustafsson (pp). Second Period: F-Damphousse 11 (Popovic, Bordeleau) Third Period: M-Damphousse 12 (Recchi, Savage) (pp). Shots on goal: M- 5-5-7—17. F- 10-9-11—30. Goalies: M-Thibault. F-Fitzpatrick.

Boston 1 1 0—2
St. Louis 3 0 1—4
First Period: S.L.-Campbell 12 (Petrovicky, Krawchuk) 2, S.L.-Persson 1 (Campbell, Krawchuk) (pp). 3, S.L.-Campbell 13 (Persson) 4, B-Rohloff 1 (Donato, Stumpel) Second Period: B-Rohloff 2 (Stumpel, Bourque) Third Period: S.L.-Pellerin 2 (MacInnis) (sh). Shots on goal: B-14-14-6—34. S.L.- 7-3-7—17. Goalies: B-Ranford, Tallas. S.L.-Fuhr.

Hartford 1 2 0—3
Chicago 1 0 3—4
First Period: H-Cassels 10 (Dineen, Malik) 2, C-Miller 9 (Craven, Savard) (pp). Second Period: H-Sanderson 23 (Burt) (pp). 4, H-Emerson 4 (Sanderson, Cassels) Third Period: C-Black 8 (Krivokrasov, Shantz) 6, C-Chelios 5 (Amonte, Miller) 7, C-Zhamnov 9. Shots on goal: H- 9-9-9—27. C- 18-10-15—43. Goalies: H-Giguere. C-Hackett

Dallas 0 1 1—2
Colorado 1 2 0—3
Second Period: D-Modano 15 (Lehtinen, Irbe) (sh). 3, C-Krupp 3 (Ozolinsh) (pp). 4, C-Lacroix 12 (Sakic, Matte) Third Period: D-Huard 1 (Nieuwendyk, Zubov) Shots on goal: D- 7-7-9—23. C- 8-9-4—21. Goalies: D-Irbe. C-Roy.

CRICKET

SECOND TEST
ZIMBABWE VS. ENGLAND
MONDAY, IN HARARE
England — wickets, 156
Match abandoned — ...

LIMITED OVERS TOU...
PAKISTAN VS. HUNTER INVITATION XI
MONDAY, IN NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA
Pakistan innings: 186-9 (32 overs)
Hunter Invitation XI: 161 all out (31.2 overs)
Pakistan won by 25 runs.

TENNIS

FEDERATION CUP
IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA
GROUP B
SINGLES

Martina Hingis, Switzerland, def. Irina Spirlea, Romania, 7-5, 6-2; Adrian Voinea, Romania, def. Marc Rosset, Switzerland, walkover.

Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, def. Petra Begerow 6-0 7-5; Wayne Ferreira, South Africa, def. Bernd Karbacher 6-4 6-4.

DOUBLES

Hingis/Rosset, def. Spirlea/Voinea, 3-6, 7-5, ...Wilson/Ferreira def. Begerow/Karbacher 6-3 6-4.

Switzerland def. Romania 2-1
Germany def. South Africa 3-0.

TRANSITIONS

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

DENVER —Activated G Ricky Pierce from injured list. Waived G Melvin Booker.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NFL—Fined Minnesota Vikings CB Corey Fuller $30,000, for poking Green Bay Packers ... Wisdom in the eye in a Dec. 22 DET...

NATIONAL HOCKEY...

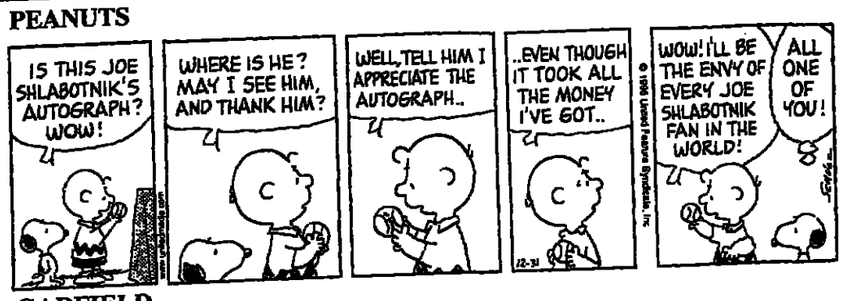
BOSTON —Returned D Anders Ahl... LW Andre Roy to Providence, AHL. Sent D Dean Malkoc to Providence for conditioning.

COLORADO —Sent RW Christian Matte, D Eric Messier, C Josef Marha and D Wade Belak to Hershey, AHL.

DALLAS —Put F Greg Adams and F Brent Gilchrist on injured reserve. Recalled F Marc Labelle from Michigan, IHL.

DENNIS THE MENACE

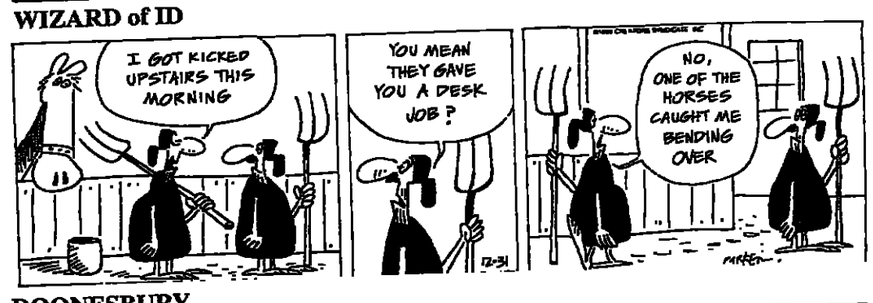
PEANUTS



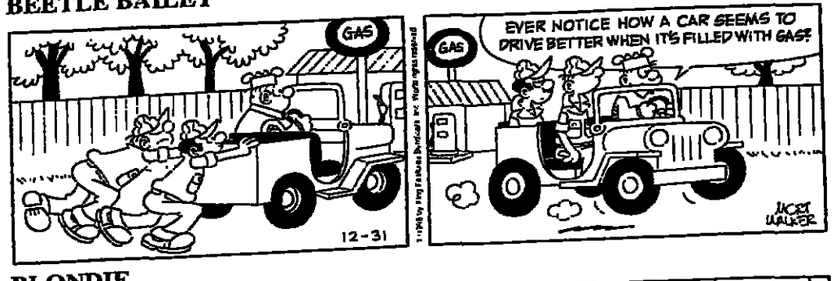
CALVIN AND HOBBES

GARFIELD

WIZARD of ID



BEETLE BAILEY



DOONESBURY

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NIGLY

BUJOM

SLAQUL

HIENAL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

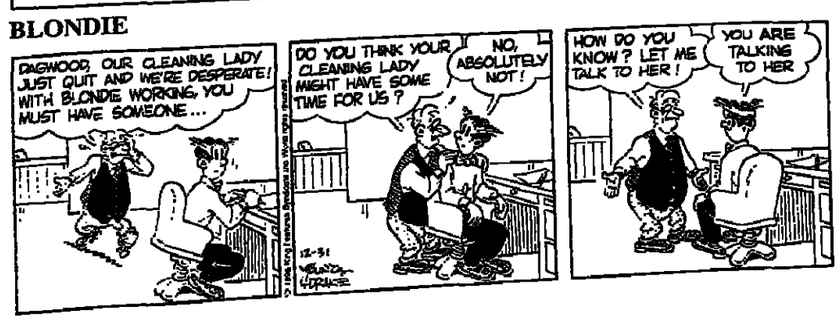
Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AWAL CRAFT BRIDGE RARELY
Answer: A fax observer the world over – GRAVITY

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE



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WASHINGTON — The best cup of coffee in Washington can be found at the White House. Its reputation is such that people from all over the world stop by to share a cup of java with the president.

Buchwald

These klatches attract businessmen and lobbyists from the Far East who will do anything to own a mug bearing the presidential seal.

The coffee is always excellent, but it is not necessarily cheap. A good cup of Jamaican blend costs anywhere from $134,500 to $200,000 — not including sugar.

People who complain about the high prices are told that the president's coffee goes through a certain filtering process — its secret known only to the Democratic National Committee.

Besides, what you get with your coffee is the president of the United States, who will listen to your story, whatever it is.

At these prices, the question is often asked if a visitor gets doughnuts as well. Those who have attended the klatches say that anyone who gives more than $200,000 is entitled to as many doughnuts as he wants. A spokesman said, "The president always claims that coffee without doughnuts is like a day without sunshine."

How did the White House become so famous for its coffee? One day an Indonesian businessman from Arkansas stopped by and Clinton offered him a cup of mocha java.

"How much is it?" the businessman asked.

"There's no charge for my coffee," the president said, "I don't want to make a profit on my brew."

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An aide standing next to the president whispered to the overseas visitor, "If you'd like to donate $150,000 to buy a new coffee pot for the White House, we'll take it."

The businessman plunked down the money, and the president poured him another cup of coffee. Another venerable tradition was started.

Pretty soon word got out in the Far East that the best kaffeeklatsches in the United States were being held at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. When they heard the news, Malaysian businessmen were prepared to kill for a cup of good American coffee. To keep the president from being overwhelmed with visits from coffee lovers, a minimum cover charge of $120,000 was levied on each cup. This didn't seem to bother the Thai, Chinese or Taiwanese businessmen who sold arms to the mainland.

When one Thai merchant was questioned as he left the White House with a Bill Clinton mug he said, "What's the big deal? Someone has to finance an American election."

Putting the Bubbles Back in Champagne

Agence France-Presse

PARIS — French champagne producers sold record quantities in 1996, restoring fizz to an industry wracked by several years of crisis, a report said Monday.

The six main champagne houses, which cut prices dramatically in recent years as demand fell, sold a record 250 million bottles, topping the 1989 record, the financial daily Les Echos reported.

'Santa Evita': Obsession Becomes a Best-Seller

By David Streitfeld
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — On the day they came to kill him, Tomas Eloy Martinez had lunch at a fashionable Buenos Aires restaurant. A messenger brought a note to his table. "When you come outside," it said, "we're going to shoot you." A glance out the window showed the street was blocked off, the usual sign that an assassination was about to unfold. Martinez asked the maître d' if there was a back exit. There wasn't.

It was May 1975. Juan Peron had just died, and his ineffectual wife, Isabel, was trying to run Argentina with the help of Jose Lopez Rega, a government minister who believed himself a sorcerer. Paramilitary death squads roamed with impunity, fighting real and imagined enemies of the state.

Lopez Rega didn't like Martinez, one of the country's best-known journalists. A couple of days earlier, a small bomb had gone off in the writer's home, destroying part of his library. An accompanying threat had given him 48 hours to leave the country.

That seemed too hasty to Martinez. A week or two in hiding and the matter would surely blow over. The note in the restaurant made him realize he was wrong. He called his newspaper. The receptionist called other reporters, both Argentine and foreign, who came to the restaurant. The gambit worked; even an Argentine death squad wasn't going to shoot someone in front of so much media.

Martinez went straight to the airport, and hasn't lived full time in the country since. But he remains an Argentine, especially in his long-running fascination with Juan Peron and his wives, first Evita and then Isabel. The three of them dominated Argentine politics for 30 years; even now, the effects linger and the arguments are bitter. Multiply America's captivation with the Kennedys about a thousand times, and you have Argentina and the Perons.

The writer, now 62, lives in New Jersey. Exile, as sometimes happens, offered a useful new perspective and a change in career. Martinez had interviewed Juan Peron, even helped him write his memoirs. But he found the tools of journalism too limited to depict these characters accurately. In the early '80s he wrote a novel called simply "The Peron Novel." It was fiction that was factual, written to set the record straight.

In the United States, at least, the response was minimal. The translation wasn't great, and Juan isn't the sexy Peron. Unable to let the matter rest, Martinez then wrote "Santa Evita," a swirl of fact and imagination about Evita Peron's life and, especially, her death.

This time, he has an international hit. Published in the United States this fall, it's approaching sales of 40,000 — excellent for translated fiction — plus half again as many in a Spanish-language edition. While it has no relation to Madonna's musical, the book will doubtless be further helped by the film. For the moment, Evita is mass market.

Martinez says he's finally through with the Perons. But he doesn't deny they've been valuable. "Obsessions," he points out, "are bad for countries but very good for novelists."

Norman Y. Lono/The Washington Post
The Argentine writer Tomas Eloy Martinez.

The first time Martinez saw Evita, it was in the late '40s. He was a teenager, gawking at the first lady on a visit to his home town of Tucuman. In his memory there's only the image of her hands, waving, from a great distance. The second time was in 1971. Evita had died of cancer in '52; for most of the time since, the location of her body was a mystery bordering on a national preoccupation.

Pedro Aramburu, who became president after Juan Peron was overthrown in 1955, ordered Evita secretly buried overseas. The soldiers who carried out the mission gave Aramburu an envelope detailing the location of the grave in Italy. He refused to open it, instructing a notary to give it to the new president four weeks after Aramburu's death.

The Montoneros guerrilla movement in the late '60s claimed Evita as their own. To finally force the issue of where her body was, they kidnapped Aramburu. By then no longer president, Aramburu truly didn't know, but he was condemned and executed anyway. The guerrillas said his body would be returned only when Evita's was.

Four weeks later, President Alejandro Lanusse received the envelope from the notary. Evita was exhumed and turned over to Peron in Spain. (According to some eyewitness accounts, the body had been severely mutilated by some unknown person.) When Martinez, who had come to interview Peron, saw her a few weeks later, she was whole again, lying on the dining room table. Her successor, Isabel, was combing her hair.

Just a further example of Argentine necrophilia, Martinez says over breakfast. "Souls have their own force of gravity: they dislike high speeds, open air, anxiety," he writes in "Santa Evita." "When someone breaks the glass panes of their slowness, they become disoriented and develop a will to evil they cannot control."

Martinez admits that, in writing "Santa Evita," he became a literary necrophiliac of sorts, too. It certainly increased his respect for the power of dead bodies. "I'm sure that if I were alone with one, I'd be very scared and superstitious. If you're alone with a dead body, you are too close to something that can be corrupted." No one is likely to corrupt Evita's body again. She finally came to rest in Buenos Aires's upscale Recoleta cemetery, surrounded by the rich she hated so much. A deep crypt and numerous steel plates shield her remains.

In a review of "Santa Evita" in the newspaper El Pais, Mario Vargas Llosa said Martinez lived "in the ugliest town in the ugliest state in the United States." Still, the writer seems happy in New Brunswick, where he is head of the department of Spanish and Portuguese at Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey. The necessity for exile is long over, but he is in no hurry to go back.

He wouldn't mind living in Argentina; it's just that writing would be hard. "If you're talking with an Argentine, he's giving you his opinion all the time. He's very intrusive. That's not good for a writer."

"Santa Evita" was a monster hit, spending more than a year on the Argentine best-seller list. There was a bidding war for U.S. rights, which hardly ever happens with books in translation. The novel is now being published in three dozen countries. Not bad for a writer who was content for most of his career to chronicle the achievements of others.

"He was one of two reporters who made us conscious in Latin America of the importance of being informed about matters of culture," says the Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes. "But to make the leap to writing them himself, certain things had to happen. He had to meet the two Perons."

But he never met her.

"Ah, but he met her ghost. He's on speaking terms with the phantom of Eva Peron."

PEOPLE

Wally Santana/The Associated Press
COMING OUT — Jeanie Elizabeth Eisenhower, 18, standing between her father, David Eisenhower, and mother, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, at the International Debutante Ball in New York. Jeanie is the great-granddaughter of one president and the granddaughter of another.

IMPROBABLE as it sounds, it's to be **Sir Paul McCartney**. The former Beatle was awarded a knighthood in the New Year's honors list. Among other showbiz figures receiving honors, Sir **Andrew Lloyd Webber**, the composer of "Evita," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Jesus Christ Superstar" becomes Lord Lloyd Webber — which doesn't [illegible] others recognized: The actress **Joan Collins**, best known for her role as Alexis in the television show "Dynasty," received an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire), while the playwright **Alan Ayckbourn** was knighted. **Frederick Forsyth**, whose best-sellers include "The Day of the Jackal," becomes a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, which entitles him to add the initials CBE after his name. The racing driver **Damon Hill**, the current Formula One world champion, was given an OBE for services to auto racing.

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France will honor the former President **Francois Mitterrand** with a postage stamp bearing his profile as well as the tricolor flag of the country he governed for 14 years. The top right corner reads "Francois Mitterrand, 1916-1996," and the value of the stamp is 3 francs (about 60 cents), the cost to send a letter in France.

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From the kitchen: **Eberhard Muller**, executive chef and part owner of the Lutece restaurant in New York, walked into the restaurant with **Paulette Satur** last week and said to the staff, "Let me introduce you to the new Mrs. Muller." "Everyone's jaw dropped," he said. "Only three days earlier customers and friends had been asking us, 'When are you getting married?' and I had been saying, 'Oh, you'll find out soon.' " Muller met Satur, an account executive with a wine company, in January when she dined at Lutece with a friend. . . . **Chef Christian Constant** put the final touch to an eventful year for French cuisine by announcing he would leave the famed kitchen of the Hotel Crillon in Paris to open his own restaurant. In a newspaper interview, Constant, 46, said he was tired of working up to 14 hours a day and was looking forward to a new start in his restaurant, opening next month in the capital's chic Seventh Arrondissement.

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The conductor **Georg Solti** would like to produce an opera by **Mozart** or **Verdi** before he dies, he confessed to the German magazine Der Spiegel. "I've often wanted to do it, but I lacked the courage," said the 84-year-old Hungarian-born former conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, adding: "Perhaps I'll succeed in staging a production of Mozart or Verdi before I die."

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The daughter of the man once regarded as one of America's most powerful mobsters has written a book about power, murder and corruption. And you'll find it in the fiction section of U.S. bookstores. **John Gotti's** daughter, **Victoria Gotti**, has written "The Senator's Daughter," due out in February. The novel features a beautiful lawyer who is assigned to defend a busboy charged with killing a union boss. The labor leader is a dapper Italian-American dogged by prosecutors intent on nailing him with flimsy charges. Gotti, 32, has said that her father was not the boss of the Gambino crime family. Gotti — once known as the Dapper Don for his natty suits — is serving a life sentence for murder and racketeering.

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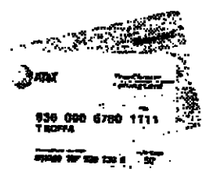

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